

RUGBY UNION  
COOKE SETS THE  
RECORD STRAIGHT  
OVER RESIGNATION

Television  
viewing  
figures for  
Games  
set record

THE 1994 Lillehammer Games were the most watched Olympic Games in United States television history, with the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona. The average for CBS's 16 nights of prime time coverage was 27.5 million viewers, according to Nielsen Media Research, the highest for any network when the Israeli team, which killed 11 members of the Israeli team, received a rating on ABC.

The previous record for Winter Olympics was set by ABC at Lake Placid in 1980, when the United States hockey team's gold medal victory, the Games had a rating of 27.5 million.

The rating is the percentage of television households in the United States, each representing 442,000 households. The share is the percentage of televisions at the time are tuned to a particular programme.

CBS is credited to Jack Duckworth, the Sports president. "They had four years without any league baseball on ABC after four years of ratings and the highest-rated sports programme on American television."

In the United States, the figure skating event (USA) has delayed the start of next week's action against Hungary, which had a hearing, previously scheduled for March 9, but which would only move to the 10th and 11th.

The USFSA executive director in Colorado Springs, who should be expected to announce the clubbing of Kerrigan before the period decided to believe the words of the Kerrigan.

T and D step down, par



**BE A SELECTOR**  
Forget the result,  
check your scorecard  
Details, page 42



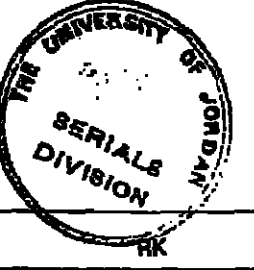
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The big earners, page 5

**30P**

# THE TIMES



No. 64,893

FRIDAY MARCH 4 1994

**Bosnia forces on 'wing and prayer'**

## Major ready to send out more troops

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN Major yesterday prepared the ground for more British troops to be sent to Bosnia after an urgent UN request for another 10,000 soldiers to police fragile ceasefires.

The Prime Minister signalled a change of heart after coming under pressure from service chiefs, who believe Britain should have responded to an earlier appeal from its UN commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose.

General Rose yesterday said his troops were operating "on a wing and a prayer" as fellow UN leaders attacked the poor response to his previous plea. General Jean Cot, who leads UN forces throughout former Yugoslavia, said the extra troops were needed immediately, adding: "The nations that can send these troops can be counted on one hand: the Americans, the British and the French."

Britain and France have previously said that they are already contributing more than their share to the force, and America has ruled out sending ground troops until a peace deal is negotiated. That stance was attacked yesterday by General Cot, who described it as a "funny and not very courageous idea."

The better idea is to send troops when they're needed — to enforce the coming of a peace. I would be very keen for US troops to be on the ground tomorrow."

Neither France nor America showed any sign of changing their attitude yesterday, but Mr Major indicated in the

**2,000 British soldiers are on standby to go to Bosnia. With Cabinet opposition to a greater commitment weakening, some may soon be on their way**

Commons that Britain might, after all, be prepared to send more men if other countries did as well. General Rose wants a mechanised infantry battalion to be sent, and the Prime Minister promised yesterday that if a new request was made "we would, of course, consider providing more forces proportionately as part of a wider international effort."

His remarks suggested that he had overcome strong Cabinet opposition from Douglas Hurd, Malcolm Rifkind and Kenneth Clarke. The request for reinforcements, which would nearly double the UN force to 24,000 men, was discussed by the Cabinet yesterday and ministers agreed that the balance of the argument had changed since the previous appeal.

They had in mind the continuing ceasefire around Sarajevo — although there was a brief violation yesterday — and the new peace agreement between Muslims and Croats in central Bosnia.

Downing Street denied strenuously, however, that Mr Major's remarks amounted to a U-turn, and said that Britain's position remained that there should be an equitable sharing of the burden.

More than 2,000 British soldiers are on standby for Bosnia, including the 1st Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, which, with North-

ern Ireland experience, would be ideal for a Bosnian mission.

Pressure on Britain to supply more soldiers was heightened by cutting remarks from Yasushi Akashi, the special UN envoy for the region, who attacked the international community for its "lukewarm and negative response" to the appeal for reinforcements.

"It's a real test case for member states to show whether their protestations for peace in Bosnia are really backed up by concrete actions," he said. "The international community must put troops where its mouth is."

General Rose wants 4,600 more soldiers for Sarajevo and 6,050 for central and southern Bosnia to monitor the ceasefire between the Muslims and Croats. But even if these troops can be found, the latest demand will have to be put before the UN Security Council for a further resolution, since the strength of the force envisaged exceeds the authorised troop level for Bosnia. A new security council mandate would also be needed if the UN commanders are to have the extra 150 military observers and 525 civilian police it wants.

Kofi Annan, the UN's head of peacekeeping, put the request to ambassadors from Britain, France, America, China and Russia on Wednesday night, but received no pledges. The five did, however, suggest



Welcome for a Coldstream Guardsman in Vitez. The woman is one of the few Croats living in the Muslim enclave

other countries that might contribute. The UN is considering taking up a longstanding offer for peacekeepers from Turkey, which has previously been prevented from sending troops because of its history of colonial involvement in the Balkans.

Mr Akashi said yesterday that the UN remained hesitant about accepting soldiers from such countries, which also include Austria, Germany and Italy, but he added: "We should not

be so stringent as we have been as to the choice of nations."

In the meantime, General Rose is making the most of his existing force by restructuring the command set-up in Bosnia, dividing the area of responsibility into three sectors. Until now, each national battalion commander has been responsible for his own area, linked directly to the UN command at Kiseljak.

Now, there is a southwest

sector, stretching from Vares in the east to the Croatian border in the west and down to Mostar in the south. The sector, which has troops from Britain, Canada, Spain and Malaysia, is being commanded by Britain's Brigadier John Reith, who is setting up a new headquarters at Gornji Vakuf.

A northeast sector, under the command of Colonel Ulf Hennricson of Sweden, covers the remainder, with the exception of the Muslim enclave of

Gorazde in eastern Bosnia, which comes under sector Sarajevo. The French troops in the Bihac pocket in the northwest are now under the direct command of General Rose.

Unproven officials in Sarajevo said the changes would allow General Rose to concentrate on wider political issues, leaving the sector commanders to run the aid convoys and negotiate with local leaders.

## Howard launches appeals reform

BY STEWART TENDLER AND FRANCES GIBB

AN INDEPENDENT body is to be set up to investigate miscarriages of justice, in an attempt to restore public confidence in the appeals system.

The new body, details of which will be announced in a Home Office consultation paper shortly, will also have powers to order fresh police enquiries and refer cases back to the Court of Appeal.

The proposals represent a fundamental change in the appeals process and follow Lord Runciman's royal commission on criminal justice last year. Overall, the Government is understood to have accepted many recommendations of the Runciman report and its arguments for changing the appeals system.

The paper is the Government's answer to an appeals system devastated by a series of damning cases, including the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six. The Home Office believes that the reforms are necessary to restore public confidence and quash unsafe convictions speedily.

The new Criminal Cases Review Authority, which would take over the Home Secretary's powers in handling miscarriages of justice, would be modelled on the Police Complaints Authority and its creation will form the centrepiece of Michael Howard's criminal justice bill later this year.

The body, with substantial administrative staff, would be manned by both laymen and lawyers and have a distinguished layman as chairman although the appointment of a judge is not ruled out. The members would be named by the Queen, on ministerial advice, in the same way that High Court judges are appointed.

The authority would have flexible powers to commission and oversee police enquiries but would not hold hearings nor have extra powers to

Tidier carve-up, page 12

Continued on page 2, col 6

## Part-timers win job safeguards

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

UP TO half a million women stand to win better job protection after a ruling yesterday that the Government illegally discriminates against part-time workers.

The House of Lords held by a majority of four to one that unfair dismissal and redundancy laws discriminate against part-time workers and are in breach of European

equality laws. The decision means the Government will have to extend unfair dismissal and redundancy rights to anyone with two years' service who works eight hours or more.

The ruling was immediately hailed as a victory by the Equal Opportunities Commission, which brought the case as part of their campaign for equal treatment for part-timers, who are mostly women.

Kamlesh Bahl, who chairs the commission, said: "In today's stunning victory, the EOC has achieved major recognition for the rights of part-time workers. Nearly half of the women who work do so part-time, and they are now a vital part of the British economy."

At present full-time workers have protection on unfair dismissal and redundancy after two years, but part-timers working between eight and 16 hours a week have to work for five years before gaining the same protection. People who work less than eight hours a week never qualify for those rights.

Yesterday a majority of law lords held that the rules, contained in the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, were incompatible with European law.

Ms Bahl said that while many women opted for the flexibility of part-time work, they did so at a high price. They earned only 59 per cent of the average hourly earnings of men working full-time.

"Given that most of the new jobs being created in the next decade will be part-time and

Continued on page 2, col 1

### SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

THE Saturday edition of *The Times* offers even better value from tomorrow with an expanded Weekend section.

- The five-section Saturday *Times* also includes *Weekend Money*, the *Magazine* and *Vision*, the 7-day TV and radio guide.
- The new *Weekend* includes expanded arts and travel coverage, two new book pages; motoring (which moves from the Friday paper); and games (moving from the *Magazine*).



- The new *Weekend* offers you the chance to win a luxury weekend for two in Ireland, worth £1,000, and the opportunity to save up to £400 on a weekend break.
- In the *Magazine*, our unrivalled team of food and drink writers: Jonathan Meades on eating out, Frances Bissell on dining in and Jane MacQuitty on wine.
- The *Times* on Saturday is only 40p. It is a small price to pay for a great newspaper.

## Younger accepts Malaysia blame

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD Younger of Prestwick, the former Defence Secretary, last night accepted the blame for linking the Pergau aid package to arms sales, absolving Baroness Thatcher and his former cabinet colleagues from responsibility.

Lord Younger admitted that he made the decision to offer aid to Malaysia equal to 20 per cent of a £1 billion defence order. He said that he told the Malaysian government that they would be able to get British aid in return for buying British defence equipment, a link which breaches government policy. "They then said: 'Then there is no reason why we should not put into the protocol that we hope we will get civil aid' and that's what we did."

The admission came as MPs investigating the £234 million aid deal to Malaysia accused Lord Younger of being made "the fall guy" for a decision which committed Britain to its largest single overseas aid offer. Lord Younger will be called before the Commons foreign affairs select committee on Tuesday.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, astonished MPs on Wednesday by saying that the agreement signed in March 1988 by Lord Younger, and the Malaysian government had not been cleared by the Foreign Office. Baroness Chalker, the Overseas Development Minister, confirmed that the defence sales were one of the factors which later drove John Major and Mr Hurd to ignore advice to pull out of the Pergau project. A month ago in a telephone interview with *The Times*, Lord Younger said he had never heard that there

was a percentage link. He said the reason he was "very, very doubtful" about such a link was because of the detailed Foreign Office briefing he had received on the matter.

In a letter to *The Times* today, Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, said that his newspaper at no stage claimed that Dr Mahathir Mohamed had sought or been paid a bribe. Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim, reportedly said his country would not lift the "buy British" last policy until the newspaper had apologised.

While standing by his paper's right to investigate the arms-for-aid story, Mr Neil said he regretted that subsequent misreporting of a *Sunday Times* story had led the Malaysians to believe Dr Mahathir had "been accused by us of a charge we did not make".



Younger linked arms sales to Pergau aid

## Labour drops pension pledge

Labour has dropped its pledge to increase the basic state pension.

Donald Dewar, Shadow Social Security Secretary, said that the party had abandoned its promise to raise the single pension by £5 and the married couple's by £8 a week. He refused to commit the party to raising the basic pension in line with prices or earnings, but said it would set a minimum guaranteed income for those who had no other resources. Page 2

### Major's new low

John Major's poll ratings as Prime Minister are now lower than Baroness Thatcher's were just before she was forced out of office in November 1990.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times* shows no signs of any reversal in the sharp decline in Mr Major's personal image. Page 9

### Murder review

The Home Secretary wants the Law Commission to scrap a 300-year-old law preventing prosecution for murder if the victim dies more than a year and a day after the crime. Michael Howard is bowing to medical technology which can keep comatose assault victims alive for years on life support machines. Page 2

### German strike

Germany is heading for its worst industrial unrest for a decade in a move which may well destroy Bonn's prediction of an economic recovery this year. The metalworkers of Lower Saxony, in a test ballot for the country, have voted for a strike by an overwhelming 92 per cent majority. Page 12

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# Labour drops commitment to raise basic state pension

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday dropped its pledge to increase the basic state pension in a radical overhaul of the party's policy on retirement benefits.

A Labour government would instead provide a minimum retirement income as a "top-up" for the poor, but most pensioners would increasingly have to rely on private provision.

In a marked policy shift from the party's 1992 general election manifesto, Donald Dewar, shadow Social Security Secretary, said that Labour had abandoned its promise to raise the single pension by £5 and the married couples pension by £8 a week.

He also refused to commit the party to raising the basic state pension in line with either prices or earnings. "Labour will not promise to spend money that is unlikely to be available to it in office,"

Mr Dewar made it clear that a Labour government would depend on private and occupational pensions to boost incomes for most of the country's ten million pensioners. It would, however, set a minimum guaranteed income for those who had no other resources that could be offset by penalising rich pensioners.

Although no final decisions had been taken, Mr Dewar told a London seminar that the

plight of the poorest pensioners could not be solved by raising the state pension. "Costs would be a problem and more importantly it does not help poor pensioners. The benefit goes to the better off while the poor see their entitlement clawed back from benefit."

Under Labour's plans to provide a guaranteed retirement income, each pensioner's income — occupational, private and state — would be measured against the pre-determined minimum. "The basic state pension would be paid to all with no means test. The guaranteed minimum would build on that foundation," Mr Dewar said. He admitted that there would be an "element of redistribution" but failed to spell out at what level that would hit.

In what was seen as another attempt to steal Tory clothing, Mr Dewar emphasised the importance of a mixed economy in pension provision. "Labour believes in a healthy mix of private, occupational and state provision. It is therefore vital that people can rely on the security of personal and occupational pensions."

Under present policy the basic state pension was "going down the plug hole". By 2030 it would be worth only 7 or 8 per cent of male average earnings.

## Lords rule on jobs

Continued from page 1  
will be taken by women, equal treatment for part-timers is now an essential aspect of equal opportunities."

The commission is to seek an urgent meeting with the Employment Secretary. However, the ruling prompted a warning from the Institute of Directors that part-time jobs would be lost as a result. Ira Chalpin, an institute spokesman, said: "excessive regulation could be a barrier to creating and retaining jobs. The longer qualifying period for part-time workers to re-

ceive additional employment rights was clearly driven by this need to reduce the burden and risks of employing people."

The Confederation of British Industry said the ruling arose from "a case against the Government, not against employers". A spokeswoman said: "There is always a danger that extending redundancy protection to part-timers will reduce employers' willingness to create new part-time jobs, but in this case, we think most employers will be relaxed about the implications."



Howard: has asked Law Commission urgently to review 16th century law

## Medical advances prompt redefinition of murder

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE technology of the life support machine has led the Government to re-examine the definition of murder. The Home Secretary has asked the Law Commission urgently to consider scrapping a 300-year-old law preventing prosecution for murder if the victim dies more than a year and a day after the crime.

Michael Howard is bowing to medical technology which can keep comatose assault victims alive for years on life support machines. However, he has refused to support a clause tabled by the Labour MP Alan Milburn to change the law as part of the Criminal Justice Bill.

Speaking at the Commons Committee considering the Bill, David MacLean, junior Home Office minister, said yesterday that he accepted the

case for Labour's new clause 5, but it was not practical because it did not include manslaughter and the matter was instead being referred to the Law Commission. The Home Office said later that it was a complex area needing careful consideration and should be properly addressed.

Mr Milburn tabled the clause after the death of a constituent, Michael Gibson, who was assaulted in Darlington in April 1992. He was comatose for 16 months before dying last August. His assailant, David Clark, received a two-year prison sentence because he could not be tried for murder and was released late last year.

Mr Milburn has led a campaign with Mr Gibson's family to change the 16th century law which defines

murder as "when a man of sound memory unlawfully killeth any reasonable creature so as the party wounded dies of the wound or hurt within a year and a day after the same".

Mr Milburn said: "Justice demands that this antiquated law is scrapped. No other family should have to suffer the injustices felt by the Gibson family." He accused ministers of dragging their feet. He first raised the issue last May and the Criminal Justice Bill provided the perfect opportunity. He called for the Home Office to put a time limit to the review.

England and Wales are the only countries in Europe to operate the rule and a change in law would bring them in line with Scotland, where no limit applies.

## Howard launches appeals reform

Continued from page 1  
obtain evidence. A broad statutory test would be created for the referral of cases by the authority to the Court of Appeal. Members would not give a recommendation.

Doubtful convictions would be referred if there was new evidence, or any new issue that could lead the courts to take a different view. Doubtful sentences would also be referred if they were thought incorrect. This would only affect sentences which could be too high, not those thought to be too lenient, dealt with under the Attorney-General's powers.

The authority would also be able to investigate cases from magistrates' courts and refer doubtful convictions to a Crown Court for a hearing. Alternatively, there will be a fast-track appeal procedure before magistrates where summary convictions turn out to be based on wrong information.

The paper will also propose liberalisation of the operations of the Court of Appeal, but the court will remain the final arbiter of an appeal. The test for acceptance of appeals by the court will be widened.

A new definition of the grounds for an appeal is likely to be drafted on the basis that the conviction was, or might be, unsafe rather than the current phrases "unsafe" and "unsatisfactory".

The court would also take a broader view of new evidence, applying a new test of whether it is "capable of belief" rather than "likely to be credible". Even without new evidence, it is proposed that the court should quash convictions where it has a "lurking doubt".

Ministers want to prevent cases going backwards and forwards to the Court of Appeal like legal shuttlecocks and halt the nightmare of recent miscarriages privately acknowledged by one senior legal figure as "a shattering experience for the justice system".

Decisions on whether cases should be referred to the Court of Appeal would be separated from the Home Office for the first time. The Government also proposes to limit the scope of a Home Secretary's prerogative of mercy. Details will be hammered out in the next few months.



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

## Younger takes the rap and a perfect fall-guy is born

Well thank heavens for that. They've tracked down George Younger. He's playing ball. The Parliamentary Conservative Party has wisely relaxed over the Pergau dam affair.

There's a line near the end of *The Maltese Falcon*... Blood streaked Spade's eyeballs now and his long-held smile had become a frightful grimace. He cleared his throat huskily... "You're taking the fall. One of us has got to take it, after the talking those birds will do. They'd hang me sure. You're likely to get a better break. Well?"

And he did take it. Good old Younger! What a gent. Pink face perfectly matching the pink in his Garrick Club tie. Toby Jessel (C. Twickenham) referred obliquely to Malaysia at PM's questions yesterday, but nobody seemed much bothered. After all, George had taken the rap. The Rt Hon the Lord Younger of Prestwick, returned from holiday, had fallen on the sword his old mate Douglas Hurd had set up for him in his answers to the select committee on Wednesday.

One could not listen to Prime Minister's questions, of course, without appreciating the service which the noble lord has rendered his former colleagues. But nor could one help entertaining a further thought. Though the price that Younger has paid is real, it is not, for him, a life or death affair.

He has left politics. He has his peerage and nobody can take it away. He is chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland: not an institution in which linking charity to the corporate interest will be seen as a fault. In short, Lord Younger is rich, busy, laden with honours and certain to remain so. If anything, this latest act of self-sacrifice will increase the regard in which he is held in the small circle which matters to him.

In fact, the more you look

at it, the more you wonder why the Tories should stop at Pergau. Are there no other looming problems for the party which might, with a little ingenuity, be traced to Lord Younger?

How about the arms-to-Iraq affair, for instance? Is it possible that Younger should be found to be the culprit here as well? And, if not, might his lordship not be prevailed upon to pretend otherwise, for his party's sake? A hint from the President of the Board of Trade, a chance remark by a junior minister to Lord Justice Scott: a gang of reporters outside the Youngers' luxury home... and out steps our hero to confirm that, yes, his was the advice upon which ministers had acted.

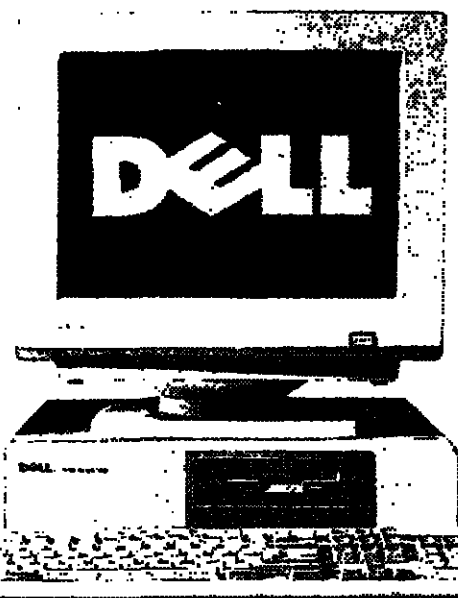
Upon reflection, the plan grows more attractive. Who, after all, did Mrs Thatcher put in charge of her disastrous 1990 leadership campaign? Step forward... yes, you guessed. Could it be that his lordship is secretly masterminding John Major's own drive for voter-approval, whose latest results are reported on the front page of this newspaper? Did he help out at Newbury or Christchurch? The answer must be Yes or No. Either incriminates him.

But let us look forward as well as back. Is economic recovery faltering? Blame Younger! Could it be that his lordship will be to blame for Tory catastrophe in the coming Euro-elections? The local government elections? The England cricket team? Torvill and Dean? Motorway cones?

His voice was soft, gentle. He said: "I'm going to send you over. The chances are you'll get off with life. That means you'll be out again in twenty years. You're an angel. I'll wait for you." He cleared his throat. "If they hang you I'll always remember you."

We'll always remember you, too, my lord.

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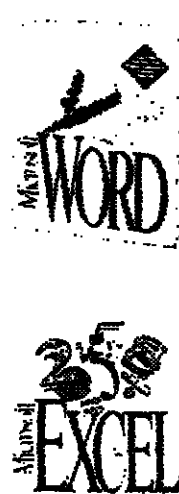


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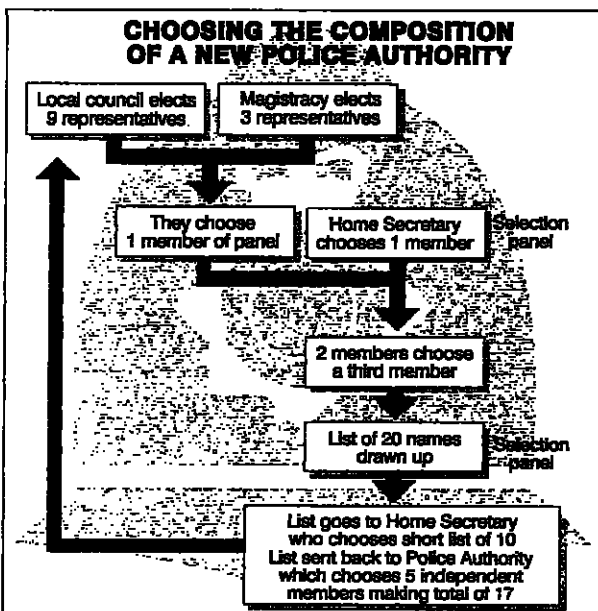
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## Howard shortlists derided in Lords

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Howard has devised a procedure of almost Byzantine complexity for choosing the independent members of police authorities.

Mr Howard and his Future Home Secretaries will have to prepare shortlists from 840 names under a system that has been greeted with incredulity among police and politicians.

Although senior police officers and representatives of local government welcomed the proposal publicly, in private they have joined opposition peers in laughing at the cumbersome system that the Home Office and police authorities will have to operate.

The process for selecting five independent members to serve on streamlined 17-strong police authorities was produced to prevent rebellion in the Lords by peers fearful that the members would be seen as "placement" of the Home Secretary.

Each police authority will create a three-strong selection panel who will prepare a list of 20 names. From this, the Home Secretary will choose shortlists of ten which will be returned to the police authorities to choose the five members.

described as "more complicated than perhaps most might have wished".

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the former Labour Prime Minister and Home Secretary, dismissed the process for selecting independent members as cumbersome, extraordinary and "rather absurd". But he conceded that the "elaborate farce" was a small price to pay for saving the Government's face. He pleaded with ministers: "Please, don't produce any more legislation like this."

One of his predecessors as Home Secretary, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, said: "It is the most complicated, elaborate procedure that can possibly be imagined. It is not an aid to police efficiency but an expensive piece of sticking plaster for such fixes as the Government faces."

"The elaborate procedure is totally disproportionate to the value of any result that will be achieved."

Robin Wendt, secretary of the Association of County Councils, said last night that though the process was convoluted it ensured the independent members would be co-opted locally rather than be ministerial appointees.

"I do not think we are particularly enthusiastic about it but it is actually a very important change," he said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gould persuaded to step down in June

Bryan Gould last night bowed to pressure from his colleagues and agreed to resign as MP for Dagenham in June. His decision, made after meeting John Smith, the party leader, paves the way for three by-elections in East London on June 9, the day of the European elections.

Last month Mr Gould said he would step down in September to take up an academic post in New Zealand. He had argued that he needed his £30,854 backbencher's salary until he took up his new post. Last night he told his local party that he had agreed a compromise.

### Son dies in police care

A man died in police care yesterday soon after his mother was found dead. The body of Annie Sinclair, 70, was discovered by police at her flat in Eastwood, near Nottingham. Soon after, her son William, 46, collapsed in a taxi which took him to Hucknall police station where he died. A Police Complaints Authority enquiry is planned.

### Stepfather given life

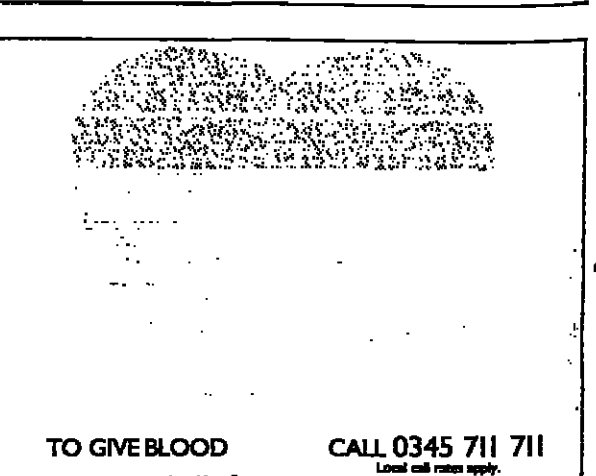
Brent Huskinson, 35, was jailed for life at Nottingham Crown Court for strangling his 13-year-old stepdaughter Leah after discovering condoms in her bag. Huskinson, of Kirby Woodhouse, was told by Mr Justice Dyson: "You have been found guilty inevitably in an overwhelming case of murder in a most brutal and savage fashion."

### Cinema fire court case

A man appeared in court yesterday charged with nine murders and two attempted murders following the fire at an illegal sex cinema in Smithfield, central London, last weekend. David Lauwers, 34, was remanded in custody for a week by Highbury Corner magistrates, north London.

### Hungerford PC dies

A policeman commended for bravery at the Hungerford massacre in 1987 has been found dead in his fume-filled car near Kettering, Northamptonshire. Christopher Larkin, 30, was convicted of drink-driving after the killings, and was then jailed for four years for robbing a building society.



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# Husband 'plotted wife's assassination for £1½ m insurance'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A RETIRED academic who was heavily in debt tried to hire a hitman to kill his wife on a Greek holiday island so that he could claim £500,000 life insurance, a court was told yesterday.

But the man who was offered a £10,000 murder contract told police, who arrested Dr Stanley Adams at a British Rail café.

Dr Adams, 66, allegedly hatched a plot involving an advertisement and a post office box number for the murder of his wife Deborah, 43.

Brian Lett, for the prosecution, said at Bristol Crown Court: "Between October 1992 and April 1993 the defendant was specifically involved in a plan that, if successful, would have resulted in his wife's murder on the Greek island of Kos."

Upon reflection, the 27-year-old Mrs Adams, who was put in charge of her husband's Step forward, was given a £500,000 as the result of insurance policies taken out on his wife. Happily the plot was revealed to the police and thereafter Dr Adams's activities were monitored by the police, which led to his arrest.

Mr Lett said that by April 1992, Dr Adams and his wife had taken out two mortgages and were £60,000 in debt.

"The prosecution suggest by the summer of 1992 the defendant and his wife were facing considerable financial difficulty. The coffers were empty."

The court was told that Dr Adams placed an advertisement in the *Overseas Jobs Express* for a mercenary who would receive a "very huge remuneration". The advertisement appeared in July 1992 and Dr Adams received more than 30 applicants to a post office box number at Yeovil, Somerset.

The jury was told that Dr Adams selected an application by Anthony Cox and telephoned his home in South Wales to outline the plan, saying that his "principals" wanted a woman relative killed.

Mr Lett said: "The principals were, in fact, Dr Adams, and he explained the woman was ill with cancer and they wanted to speed up that demise. She would be taken on holiday to southern Italy and driven into the mountains, where she would be effectively disposed of. It would be made to look like a robbery gone wrong."

The killing was supposed to take place in the Italian resort of Sorrento between December 19, 1992, and January 2, 1993. But the plan had to be cancelled because Dr Adams was involved in a serious accident and was in hospital for two months. The court was told that Dr Adams increased his wife's life insurance from £250,000 by writing two forged letters to insurance companies.

Mr Lett said: "Early in 1993, the defendant took out further insurance cover on his wife's life, bringing the total to £500,000. This was broken down as a £30,000 policy with Norwich Union and £50,000 with Scottish Widows."

"There was also a new Norwich Union policy which would give £24,624 and three £100,000 policies. Finally, he also took out £75,000 travel insurance with the AA."

By the end of December 1992 Mr Cox had told South Wales police of the plot and all letters between the two were intercepted by detectives. In February 1993, Dr Adams wrote to Mr Cox telling him the murder would be switched to Kos in June 1993. He was offered two payments of £400 and a final instalment of £10,000 after the killing.

Six weeks before the "hit", Dr Adams met Mr Cox at Bristol Temple Meads station to finalise details and police arrested him.

Dr Adams, a father of three, of Chiltons Road, Somerset, denies conspiracy to murder between July 15, 1992, and April 24, 1993.

The trial continues today.

## Garden murders suspect collapses

BY RICHARD DUCE

THE builder accused of murdering his teenage daughter collapsed in the dock at Gloucester magistrates' court yesterday as he faced two further murder charges.

Frederick West, 52, swayed as the charge that he murdered his daughter Heather was put to him, and then fell to the floor as the second charge of murdering Shirley Robinson, 18, was read out.

The bodies of three women were found buried in the back garden of Mr West's home in Cromwell Street, Gloucester. At his first court appearance on Monday it was alleged only that he had murdered his daughter.

It is alleged that Mr West murdered Heather between May 28, 1987, when she was 16, and February 27 this year, and that the two other women were killed between January 1, 1972, and February 27 this year.

Rita Crane, for the prosecution, asked that Mr West be remanded in custody until March 7. Howard Ogden, for the defence, agreed to the application and asked that reporting restrictions in the case not be lifted.

Outside the court after the six-minute hearing, Mr Ogden said that he had been concerned by some media coverage of the case.

He said: "I understand the press interest, I understand the views that are being expressed. I understand the news value of a case such as this, but from a legal point of view I'm concerned that any potential trial could be prejudiced."

Gloucestershire police are still trying to establish the identity of the third alleged murder victim and yesterday issued a picture of Ms Robinson in an attempt to locate anyone who knew her.



Pavarotti leans on a locomotive after unveiling his name plaque to the strains of "Nessun Dorma" at the Folkestone Le Shuttle terminal

## Maestros put their names in the spotlight

BY STAFF REPORTERS

LUCIANO Pavarotti and Plácido Domingo, two of the world's greatest tenors, each put their name in the international spotlight yesterday, one launching an operatic competition, the other a train service.

To the strains of *Nessun Dorma*, Pavarotti officially named the first of Eurotunnel's Channel tunnel Le Shuttle locomotives at the Folkestone terminal. The Luciano Pavarotti is the first of 38 locomotives to be named after famous opera singers or

operas. The tenor said: "I think the tunnel is going to be something very special. Of course I will be using it."

However, the freight service, which was to have started on Monday, has been postponed while safety checks in the tunnel continue.

Pavarotti also announced that he hoped to mark his 40-year career with a performance next year in Llangollen, North Wales, where he made his professional debut in 1955 at the age of 17.

In New York yesterday, Domingo launched an international quest to

find five opera stars of the future. The finals for the Plácido Domingo world opera contests, Operalia 94, will be held in Mexico in September.

Domingo has pledged his personal support for the winners, each of whom will receive \$25,000, and has promised to help arrange future performance bookings for them.

He said: "In my travels to different parts of the world I have become convinced that outstanding singing talents exist everywhere. To discover these voices of tomorrow is what we must do to make certain that opera

will thrive in the future." The judges, who will represent authorities on opera in the 12 participating countries, are to be announced in the next few days.

Television networks in each of the countries involved, including BSkyB, will sponsor the competition.

National contests will be held in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Sweden and the US this month and in April. The British contest will take place in London on April 14 and 15.

## Housewives tortured young mother for eight hours

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THREE housewives tortured a young mother for eight hours after luring her to a house and taking away her 11-month-old baby.

The women carved noughts and crosses on Heather Willard's back with a pair of scissors and rubbed aftershave into her wounds. She eventually escaped with scores of cuts and bruises, a broken nose and cigarette burns to her hand.

At Winchester Crown Court yesterday Mr Justice Tucker said: "People trying to find out how totalitarian regimes get staff for their concentration camps should perhaps begin their investigations with you."

Caroline Williams, 31, admitted false imprisonment and actual bodily harm and was jailed for 21 months.

Shelley Mitchell, 21, who admitted the same charges, was given 12 months suspended for two years. Tina McCormack, 34, admitted causing actual bodily harm and was jailed for a year.

The three women are from Liss, Hampshire. One of them lured Mrs Willard, 19, to Williams' home in May last year by sending a child aged 11 to invite her to collect money owed to her. When she arrived Williams accused her of spreading rumours that she was an unfit mother.

Simon Privett, prosecuting, said they took Mrs Willard's

baby from her, ignoring her protests, and contrived a "pantomime" in which Mrs Willard was made to touch Williams' face. "The pretence was that Mrs Willard had struck the first blow and what followed was justified," he said. "Williams then grabbed her hair, she fell and Williams kicked her before she was pulled up by her hair."

McCormack and Williams rained blows on her head as she covered in a corner. Williams ordered loud music to be played while she bounced on Mrs Willard's back as she lay on the floor, then Williams and Mitchell made the noughts and crosses cuts on her back.

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## Women condemn 'anger' sentence

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who beat up his second wife after serving a sentence for killing his first was ordered by a judge to go on an anger-management course. Women's groups condemned the sentence as "completely inadequate".

Barrie Davies, 42, of Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, attacked his second wife less than three years after killing his first. He injured two policemen who tried to calm the situation as he hit his wife, Dawn, 39, in the face.

Davies admitted grievous bodily harm with intent after drinking 15 or 16 pints of beer. He was freed by a judge and told to attend ten two-hour anger sessions run by probation chiefs.

He had been asked to keep an "anger diary", writing down his feelings instead of turning to violence.

Campaigners who help battered women have condemned the sentence. Carol Owen, spokeswoman for Welsh Women's Aid, said: "This is an extraordinary message being given to this man is that assaulting women is not a serious offence."

"The judge has allowed a man to walk free who is clearly a danger to women and is sending a damaging message to society about domestic violence."

Davies served 15 months in jail for the manslaughter of Alyson, his first wife, in February 1991. She died from

face wounds after being struck by Davies during an argument at their home. He married his second wife after being convicted and they set up home a mile away. Davies, who was out of work, became violent again after a night's heavy drinking. Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court was told that a violent dispute flared between the couple about babysitting duties.

Nicholas Jones, for the prosecution, said: "Davies walked into the lounge and pushed his wife over the fence. He then began punching her repeatedly about the face."

Davies' nine-year-old daughter ran downstairs and began hitting her father, shouting "Stop it, stop it". He fled next door as his wife called police. But Davies punched PC Mark Hopkins and pushed PC Nigel Morgan before being overpowered and handcuffed.

He told police he gave his wife "a couple of cracks". Mrs Davies was treated in Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil, for a fractured eye socket and bruising. The court was told she had forgiven her husband and the couple were reconciled.

Mr Recorder Britton sentenced Davies to 12 months probation, including the course "to help you control your temper".

Davies was also fined £125 for assaulting the two police officers.

## I was wrong, says surrogate mother

BY KATE ALDERSON

ONE of the leading campaigners for surrogate motherhood and the founder of a surrogacy agency has admitted in a BBC documentary that she now feels it was a mistake to have given away the baby she had for another couple.

Claire Austin, 28, from Shenstone Woodend, Staffordshire, who has twice been a surrogate mother, says in the documentary that she wants to have regular contact with the two-year-old boy she gave away immediately after he was born.

According to the BBC Midlands documentary *For Love or Money* broadcast last night, she has been involved in a legal battle to gain access to the child.

Ms Austin, who also has a daughter Whitney, eight, said: "Yes I do feel that I would like to see him. Not just for me but also for Whitney." Ms Austin, who once described her role as "an incubator", yesterday refused to comment on the documentary.

Ms Austin says in the programme: "I went into

surrogacy with rose-coloured glasses on. It all seems very easy and straightforward on the surface but when you actually get down to the nitty gritty it is very different. I got it wrong, very wrong."

After she gave birth to the boy, Ms Austin became pregnant again for a couple who had been trying to have a baby for nearly ten years. Unlike her first surrogate pregnancy, Ms Austin was not the natural mother. However, an ultrasound scan showed the baby had Down's syndrome and the couple wanted a termination.

Mrs Austin reluctantly agreed, but said in the BBC film: "It was terrible. It was absolutely destroying."

The Social Services Inspectorate is investigating legislation controlling surrogacy amid growing concern about the rights of the people involved. Surrogacy is legal provided no profit is made. Last year about 300 babies were born of surrogate mothers, usually by agreement between friends or relatives.

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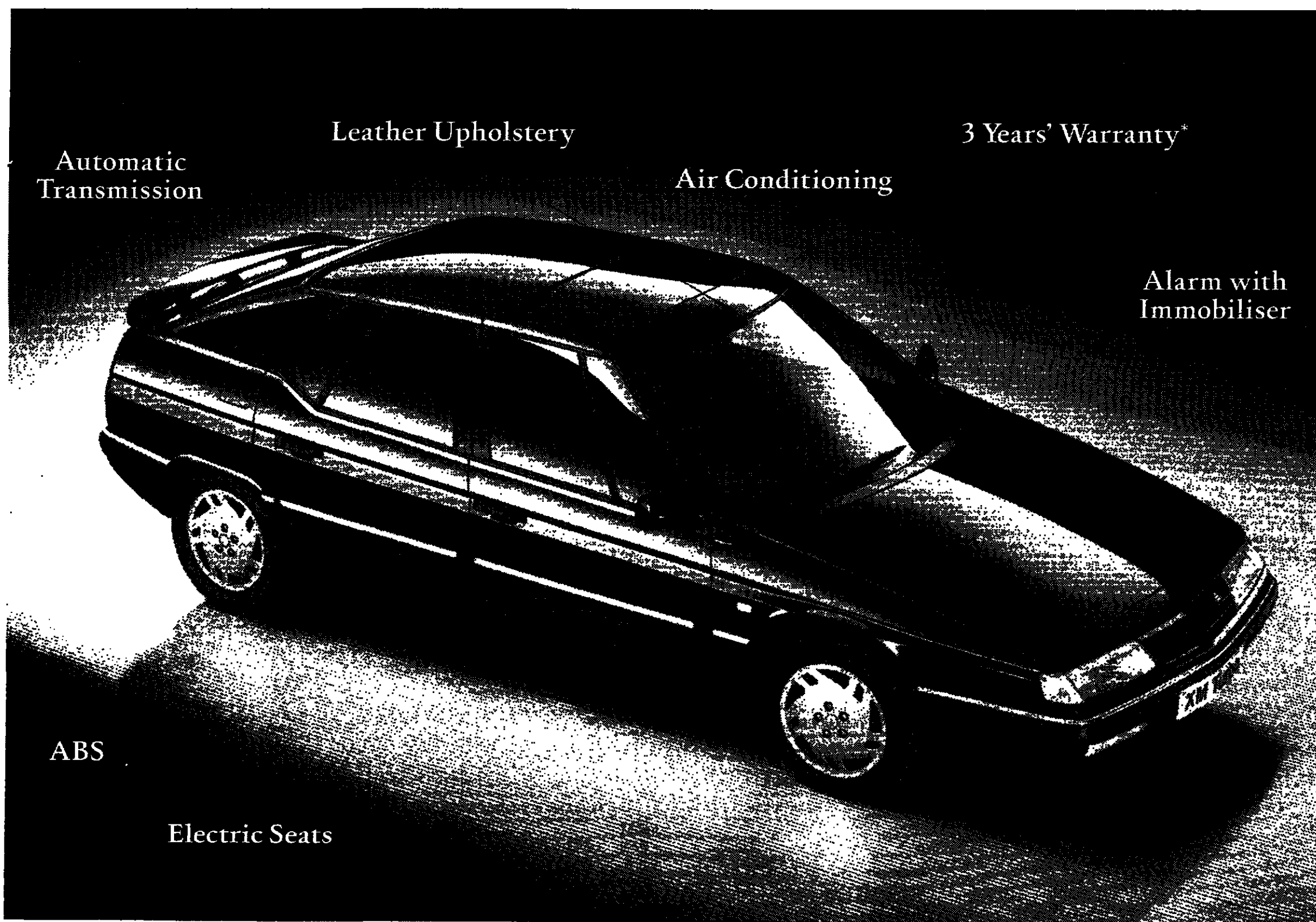
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# Major rejects calls for more control of boardroom perks

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
CHIEF POLITICAL  
CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith planned to interfere with business salaries, the Prime Minister claimed yesterday as the dispute over boardroom pay boiled over in the Commons.

John Major backed Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in urging restraint on the industry leaders, but said the Government would not impose pay policies on the private sector where some heads of privatised firms have enjoyed increases of about 50 per cent.

His comments came as Stephen Dorrell, the Treasury financial secretary, was delivering a different message to the public sector. He told the TUC that wage increases for five million public servants would have to be funded by greater efficiency.

Mr Major told MPs: "My view [is] that excessive pay awards are not justified. I equally maintain the point that it is a matter between employer and employee, company and management, rather than the Government."

The Labour leader sought to drive a wedge between Mr Major and Mr Clarke by reminding the Prime Minister that he had recently dismissed a Commons question about boardroom perks as not a matter for him.

Mr Major said that as long

■ Executive salaries came under fire in the Commons yesterday as John Major refused to heed calls for a firm policy on pay

ago as 1991 he had urged business leaders to set an example by curbing their own salary increases.

Mr Smith said that top executives were ignoring such appeals and were increasing their pay and perks relentlessly.

Referring to the Chancellor's decision to freeze the £80 billion public-sector pay bill, Mr Smith accused the Government of being unfair and hypocritical.

The Labour leader said: "Don't you yet appreciate the anger felt throughout this country at massive pay increases for top people occurring at the same time as massive tax increases for the rest of the country?"

"Why is this Government so soft and indulgent on the very rich, but hard and unfair on everyone else?"

Mr Major replied: "This happens to be a free capitalist country in which companies determine their wages."

The Prime Minister accused Mr Smith of betraying his party's move to modernise its economic policies and said Mr Smith's comments indicated that he would "interfere in the pay of employees and the payment of management". Mr

Major added: "If that is so, it blows out of the water any of Labour's modernising ideas of understanding free enterprise."

Earlier in the Commons Mr Clarke had renewed his appeal for pay restraint at boardroom level, while rejecting pay policies.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, demanded that the Government act to curb the perks given to senior executives.

Releasing figures showing that many of the chairmen of the privatised regional electricity companies had made profits of between £30,000 and £90,000 from share option deals, Mr Brown promised that a future Labour government would crack down on such payments.

Ending tax relief on executive share options would save the taxpayer £200 million, Mr Brown said.

The Liberal Democrats called for higher taxes on company heads. Alan Beith, their Treasury spokesman, said the Chancellor should stop moaning about boardroom pay rises and raise the top rate of tax to 50 per cent for those earning about £500,000 a year.



Stephen Dorrell, left, sharing a lighter moment with the TUC general secretary John Monks at the conference at Congress House yesterday

## TUC tea but no sympathy for pay messenger

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday told leaders of 5.5 million public sector employees that any pay rises would have to be earned.

Stephen Dorrell, Treasury Financial Secretary, delivered the uncompromising message to a conference of union leaders organised by the Trades Union Congress. It was the first time in memory that a Conservative minister has addressed a TUC audience.

The move indicates an important shift of approach from

a key figure on the Conservative left, while for the unions it underlines their new attempt to build cross-party support for trade union influence.

Hostile union reaction to Mr Dorrell's appearance at Congress House was probably eased by the strong attack on executive pay rises by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor. Mr Dorrell endorsed that attack with his emphasis on the need for all pay to reflect improved performance.

Ken Cameron, general secretary of The Fire Brigades Union, summed up the response of many delegates

when he said Mr Dorrell's clear warning on pay would make "no difference whatsoever" to union opposition to the Government's public sector pay restraint.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, said Mr Dorrell had been "hard and uncompromising", especially on pay, but it was important for the unions to be in public dialogue with the Government. Rodney Bickerstaffe, associate general secretary of the public service union Unison, said that while ministers should "keep coming and keep listening" they should also "do something

different" over pay. Mr Dorrell did not back away from the issue of public sector pay restraint. He said: "Any increases in pay will have to be funded not by increased resources from the taxpayer for the same level of output but by better efficiency."

"It is odd that this approach has attracted so much attention. It seems to me to be self-evident that if the level of a service remains constant then there should not be any more cash provided to pay for it."

He attempted to undercut some union leaders' rhetoric by insisting that the policy did

not necessarily imply a freeze, because there was no formal limit on pay settlements. Because of the provision that rises could be met through increased efficiency, the Government's policy did not pre-empt the current round of public sector pay negotiations.

His statements were in line with a TUC analysis published yesterday that showed a £3.5 billion allocation to government reserves which Bill Callaghan, TUC economic secretary, said provided the money to "fund a fair pay increase for public sector workers and to protect jobs".

## The 'not too badly paid' explain why they are worth every penny

By PHILIP BASSETT,  
SUSAN GILCHRIST AND  
MARTIN WALKER

THE pay of company chief executives has increased by 50 per cent more than the average employee's since the Conservatives came to power in 1979, according to a survey published today.

It suggests that the principal reason for the widening gap is tax changes that have benefited high earners.

The findings appear to endorse the attack on high pay rises for "executives" by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and his call to high earners to start showing greater self-control over pay.

The study of take-home pay by Incomes Data Services, an independent pay research company, says that since the financial year 1978-79 the take-home pay of company chief executives has increased on average by 645 per cent, whereas the take-home pay of employees on average earnings has risen by 409 per cent.

The Times spoke to some of Britain's highest paid directors and asked them to explain the rationale behind their pay awards.

Peter Wood, founder and chief executive of Direct Line, the insurance company, earned £18.2 million last year after the company's profits more than trebled to £50.2 million. Mr Wood has been so embarrassed by the publicity generated by his pay that he has negotiated a new contract. He will no longer receive multi-million-pound bonuses, but in compensation will receive a lump sum of £24 million.

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of LWT, the broadcaster taken over by Granada last week, holds shares worth more than £14 million following the most lucrative "golden handcuffs" deal in commercial broadcasting. Greg Dyke, his chief executive, has a stake



Bob Bauman



Martin Taylor



Michael Green



Sir Iain Vallance



Peter Wood



Mick Newmarch

worth £9.3 million. Sir Christopher defended the bonus scheme: "It was not a windfall. It was a well-earned reward for all the genuine hard work involved in winning the franchise."

Bob Bauman, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham,

the international drugs giant, was paid £2.1 million last year. A spokesman for the company, which made 480 workers redundant this week, said that more than half of Mr Bauman's remuneration package was performance-related. "He is the head of one of the largest multinational corporations and you should therefore be comparing his salary to that of directors of similar companies."

Next month Mr Bauman is to leave SmithKline Beecham to become non-executive chairman of British Aerospace. He will be paid £50,000 a year for working one or two days per week, but will also be granted 120,000 share options at 55p each.

He replaces John Cahill, who received compensation worth more than £3 million for his two years at the company. Mr Cahill, who had been on a five-year contract at £540,000 a year, was paid in US dollars to avoid paying British income tax. In his two years at BAE some 25,000 jobs have been cut.

Lord Hanson, chairman of Hanson plc, has consistently been among Britain's highest earners. Last year he earned £1.36 million and now has 3.5 million share options worth almost £10 million.

Rising fast up the pay league is Martin Taylor, the

new chief executive of Barclays Bank. Mr Taylor is being paid at least £737,000 a year, more than twice as much as his predecessor Andrew Buxton, who held the joint role of chairman and chief executive. His pay package, which includes a basic salary of £500,000 and a guaranteed bonus of £150,000 whatever happens to profits, makes him the highest paid director among the Big Four banks.

Mr Taylor is no stranger to big salaries, having earned £274,000 a year as chief executive of Courtlaids Textiles. When details of his salary emerged in January a Barclays spokesman said: "This is what you need to pay when you are looking for a top manager to bring in tested and proven management skills at a top level." Days after Mr Taylor took over the helm, Barclays announced 3,000 job losses.

Michael Green, founder and chairman of Carlton Communications and one of the most powerful men in British television, earns more than £630,000 a year including bonuses. Mr Green's wealth is set to grow further with the company's recent takeover of Central Independent Television, which gives the enlarged group 30 per cent of ITV advertising revenue. On top of his remuneration package Mr Green also owns 5.3 million shares worth almost £50 million.

Ed Wallis, chief executive of PowerGen, the second largest electricity generator, was the biggest winner from share options granted to directors of the privatised electricity companies. Mr Wallis, who has attracted criticism for his escalating pay rises, could pick up almost £1 million from his 487,500 share options. This would come on top of the £133,000 salary and bonus he received last year. Mr Wallis has the dubious pleasure of having been singled out by Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, as the most lavish example of "boardroom excess" among Britain's privatised companies.

Mick Newmarch, chief executive of Prudential, caused a furore three years ago when his pay rose by 43 per cent to £544,000 in a year when the group's profits fell by 37 per cent. Mr Newmarch now earns a salary of £565,000 boosted by a £156,000 bonus.

Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of British Telecom, has also been vilified for his large pay rises after BT was privatised in 1984. However, Sir Iain has become more restrained of late. His salary of £474,000 has been frozen for the past two years, and he has given his bonus payments, which last year amounted to £90,000, to charity.

Lord Weinstock, managing director of GEC and a long-time critic of the "greed is good" philosophy, is believed to earn about £600,000 including bonus. "I am not a beneficiary of a mega salary," he said. "But I am not too badly-paid."

## \$3m Christmas bonus for Michael, 28

By JON ASHWORTH

BIG City bonuses are back in fashion. The sums passing around some of the top American stockbroking firms defy belief.

At Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, bonuses are reported to be handed out in \$5 million blocks, dubbed Goldmans. Michael Sherwood, 28, the head of Eurobond syndication, managed a mere \$3 million Christmas bonus on top of a generous pay package.

Other winners included Gavin Davies, the firm's chief international economist and one of the Treasury's "Seven Wise Men". Such pay-offs take their cue from the top. Goldman's chief

New York partner, Stephen Friedman, is reputed to have been in line for a \$25 million bonus.

Big bonuses were popular in London during the boom markets of the mid-1980s but vanished in the recession. Since Christmas, big American houses such as Goldman, Salomon Brothers and Lehman Brothers have led the way in passing on record profits to their employees.

There is also a defensive element. Poaching between City firms has shown a sharp increase, with leading analysts commanding packages of £500,000 or more, plus incentives. Top stars have been offered vast bonuses to persuade them to stay. However, the wave of

uncertainty on world stockmarkets may end the trend.

Windfalls from share options, which have meant six-figure profits for most of the directors of the 22 privatised water and electricity companies in England and Wales, are the result of the Government putting too low a value on the businesses when they were floated on the stock market. Shares in Manweb, the electricity distributor serving the North West, for example, were sold at 240p but recently changed hands at 850p. Most of the executive share options were arranged just after privatisation, allowing directors to buy at the current stock market value and sell later for an immediate profit.

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# Grant squeeze will force universities to turn away 10,000

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MORE than 10,000 qualified applicants will be turned away from degree courses this autumn in spite of a relaxation in the Government's squeeze on university places.

The number of people applying to join higher education courses has risen by more than 3 per cent since last year. However the universities' and colleges' grants, announced yesterday, allow for no increase in new entrants and institutions will face financial penalties if they overrecruit.

Professor Graeme Davies, chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, admitted many well-qualified candidates would be turned away. Some universities would have to cut intake by up to 10 per cent.

University vice-chancellors said the settlement would mean significant cuts in admissions, as well as a continuing reduction in funding per student. John Patten, the Education Secretary, ordered a 3.5 per cent cut in the number of entrants to higher education in November's Budget, to

meet spending constraints. He cut tuition fees to ensure universities did not flout guidelines, as many did last year.

Funding council calculations showed the £3.322 billion allocated to higher education would support as many new students as were admitted last autumn. Institutions are being told how many students they will be allowed and will be penalised if they are more than 1 per cent over their limit.

Professor Davies said he expected some institutions to complain. Luton and Derby, the last universities to be established, would be among the hardest hit.

Tony Higgins, joint chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, expected about 420,000 applications for 260,000 places. "It is still too early to say exactly how many will lose out because the admissions system has changed."

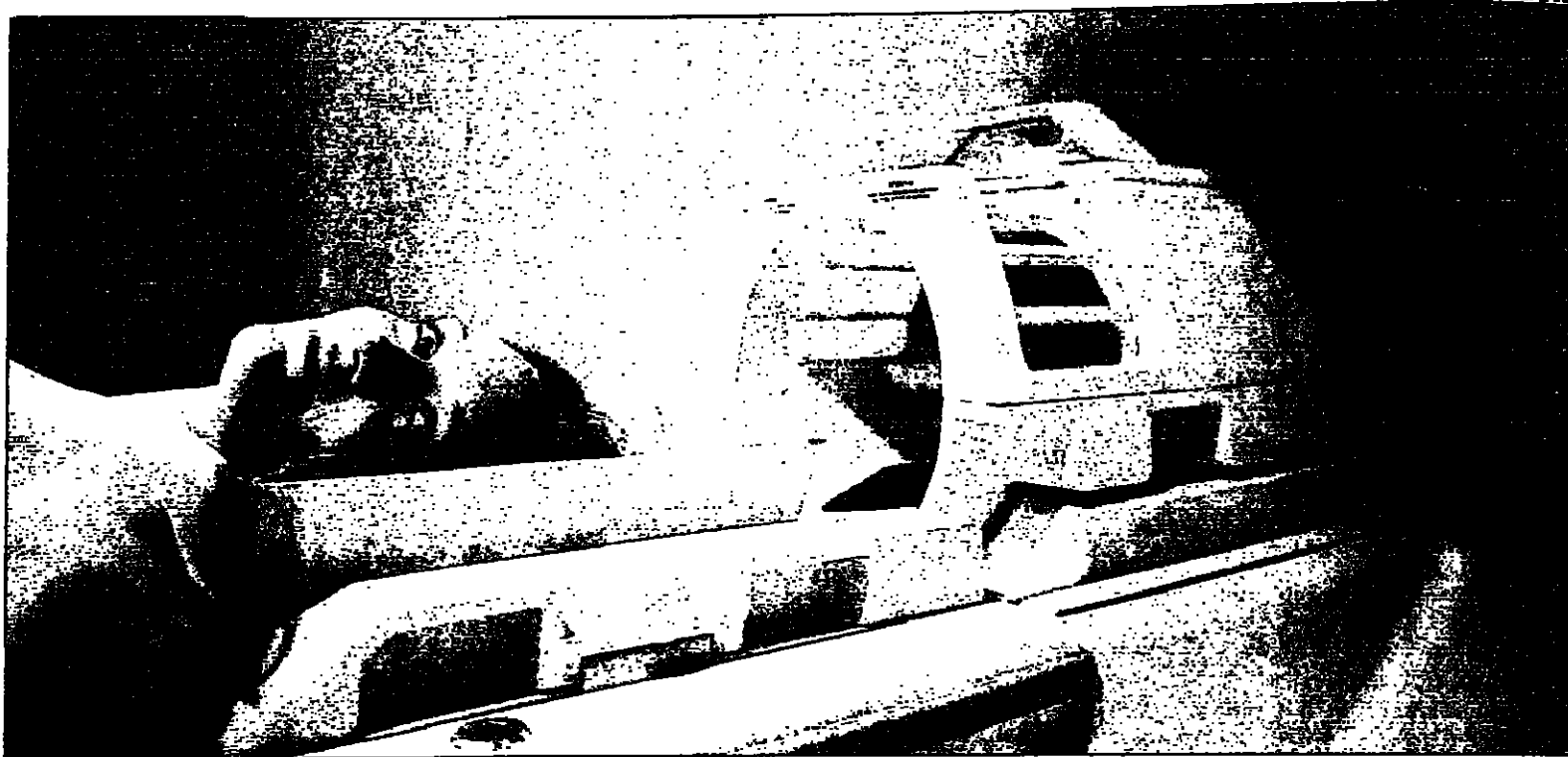
Some universities are waiting until they have received their detailed allocation before they issue final offers. The

funding council expects most admissions tutors to raise entry requirements to be sure of avoiding penalties.

Only 15 of the 80 universities won budget increases above the estimate of 4 per cent inflation in 1994-95. They include Oxford and Cambridge, whose rises of 5.8 per cent are among the highest. Bristol, Liverpool, Newcastle and the London School of Economics will receive the minimum increase of 1 per cent. Most are suffering from disappointing research ratings.

The University of East Anglia has estimated that it will have to cut its intake by 8 per cent, while Essex University hopes to recruit more overseas students and postgraduates to compensate for the capping of undergraduate numbers.

Dr Kenneth Edwards, the vice-chancellors' chairman, said: "The HEFCE has done a good job in difficult circumstances. Government policy has given the funding council very little scope to respond to the continued demand for higher education."



Samantha Muttock with the magnetic resonance imaging scanner that saved her life by pinpointing the brain tumour other scans had missed

## Brain scanner gives new hope to epilepsy sufferers

By JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the first patients to be cured of epilepsy after doctors removed a brain tumour they had not been able to identify before had been given only a short time to live.

Samantha Muttock, 26, from Southampton, who had had epilepsy since she was 11, told yesterday how two years ago doctors said that her

condition was fatal. They thought she had a malignant tumour, but recent advances in brain scanning revealed that it was a benign tumour that causes epilepsy.

Scientists at the National Society for Epilepsy believe the tumour, which was invisible to older scanning techniques, could be a key cause of epilepsy. By pinpointing the tumour with a magnetic resonance imaging scan, which provides a three dimensional image, surgeons were able to remove it and she was cured.

About 200 epilepsy patients have been scanned using the technique in the past two years and 13 have been found to have the tumour. A scanner given to the society by the drug company Glaxo will enable 3,000 patients a year to be screened.

Surgeons at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London have removed brain tumours

from 25 epileptics. "The outcome is excellent," Dr Simon Shorvan, a consultant neurologist and medical director of the society, said. "People who were having fits every day have stopped altogether."

Only 150 operations are carried out each year on patients with epilepsy although about 20,000 are thought likely to benefit. About 350,000 people have epilepsy in the United Kingdom, 100,000 of them children.

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Joyriders die in crash

TWO teenagers died and a man was left paralysed yesterday after a car stolen from Milton Keynes hit an oak tree on a winding country road.

Dave Mulken and Scott Slater, both 18, were killed instantly. Doctors at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire, said that spinal injuries would almost certainly leave the 24-year-old driver, who has not been named, paralysed from the neck down.

#### Case dropped

Fraud squad detectives have told Monty Blazey, the former chairman of Bromley social services and housing committee, that he is no longer under investigation over allegations involving a holiday and a firm tendering for contracts.

#### Body identified

A body on a railway line was identified as Neil Morrison, 32, of Guisborough, Cleveland, whose former girlfriend was found stabbed to death at his flat last month. They had a four-year-old daughter.

#### Wrong-footed

A bank survey of 1,004 people found that one in ten women thought the FTSE 100 index was a brand of shoe. Forty-six per cent of women knew it was a shares index, as against 77 per cent of men.



#### Why he chooses The Times

● "My priority in newspapers is fair reporting," says Walter Mills of Woodbridge, Suffolk, who has started taking *The Times*. "The *Telegraph* has become too biased of late. I tried *The Independent* but didn't like the unfamiliar format. "I'd been taking *The Sunday Times* and thought I'd try *The Times*. It had always given the impression of being a stuffy, old-fashioned paper but actually it's enjoyable. It is fair, balanced and gives an honest and straightforward picture. "I like the features and sport, and have no trouble finding things. I am certainly going to stick with it." Order *The Times* and freeze the price for a year. See page 24

### KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

#### Karpov routs Polgar to preserve record

FIDE champion Anatoly Karpov continues to astound in the super-tournament in Linares, Spain.

In round six he maintained his 100 per cent record by defeating the Hungarian teenage prodigy Judith Polgar.

In this game she was utterly tied in knots and faced ruinous loss of material in the final position.

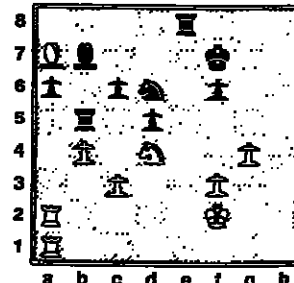
PCA world champion Garry Kasparov could do no better than draw against Boris Gelfand and now trails Karpov by a full point. Kasparov's chance to catch up comes with today's seventh round where Kasparov has the white pieces against his arch rival Karpov.

White: Anatoly Karpov  
Black: Judith Polgar  
Linares, March 1994

#### Sicilian Defence

- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 1 e4    | c5   |
| 2 c3    | e6   |
| 3 d4    | d5   |
| 4 exd5  | exd5 |
| 5 Nf3   | Nc6  |
| 6 Bb5   | c4   |
| 7 Ne5   | Qb6  |
| 8 Bxc6+ | bxc6 |
| 9 0-0   | Bb8  |
| 10 h3   | 0-0  |
| 11 exd3 | Nd7  |
| 12 Bg3  | Bxe5 |
| 13 dxe5 | Bd6  |
| 14 Qd4  | Nf5  |
| 15 Oc5  | h5   |
| 16 Nd2  | f6   |
| 17 exd6 | gxd6 |
| 18 Bb4  | Kf7  |

#### Diagram of final position



#### Universities meet in oldest chess fixture

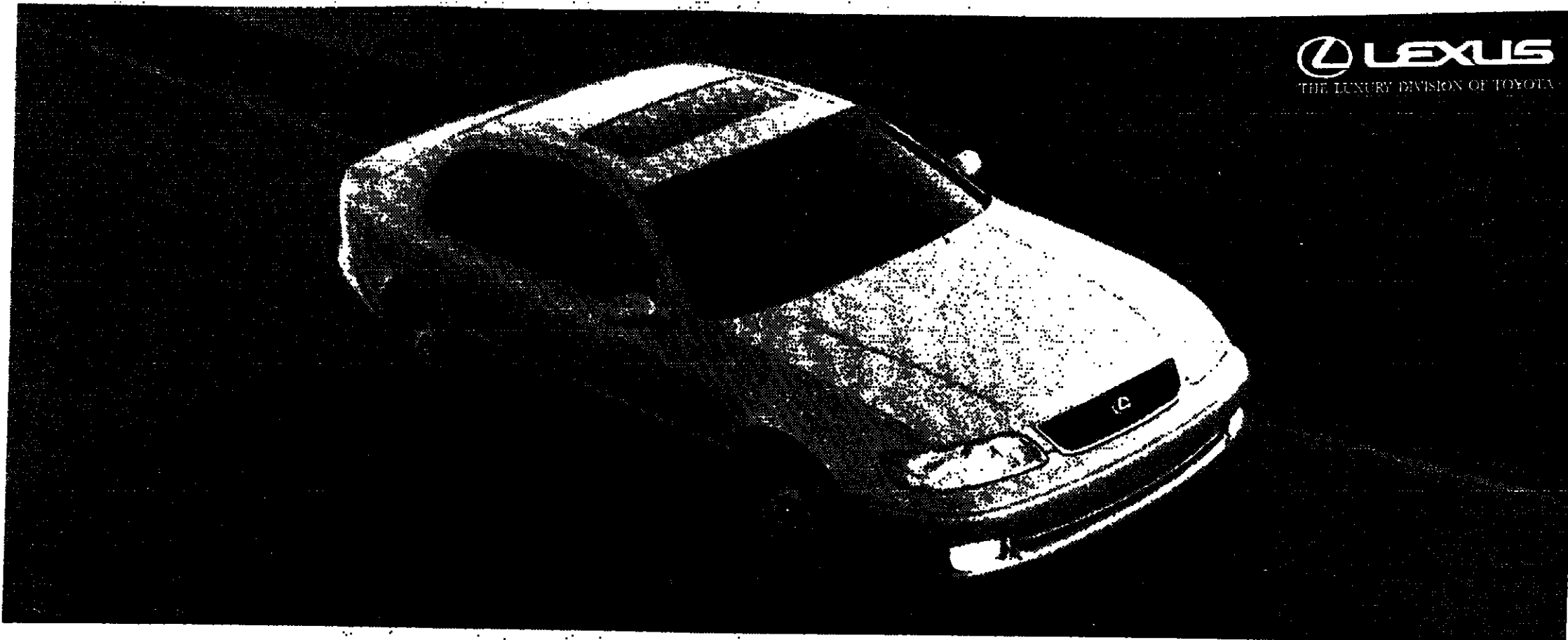
The annual match between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, sponsored by City solicitors Watson, Farley and Williams, takes place at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, tomorrow.

The Varsity match, which started 111 years ago, is the longest-running chess fixture in the world. Oxford have won the past three matches and lead overall by 48 matches to 46, with a number of draws. Matches were abandoned during war years.

Winning Move, page 44



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# Major fights in vain to improve image

By PETER RIDDALL

THE public has a much less favourable view of John Major's abilities as a leader than of Margaret Thatcher just before she lost office in 1990. The latest MORI poll for *The Times* shows that there has been no improvement in Mr Major's personal ratings since last July when the image of party leaders was last examined.

Even among the reduced number of Tory supporters — at 28 per cent, presumably a hard core — his personal ratings are less favourable than the view of John Smith and Paddy Ashdown held by Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters. This underlines the problems Mr Major faces in trying to improve his image. Mr Major's ratings fell

■ The Prime Minister's public rating is lower even than Margaret Thatcher's just before she lost power.

sharply after sterling's forced withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992 and have not recovered since then. While between a third and two-fifths of the public regarded him as a capable leader in his first 18 months as Prime Minister, barely a tenth do now.

The most striking contrast is with just before the fall of Baroness Thatcher. Mr Major has a more favourable rating than her on just two out of nine positive measures of leadership. Overall, Lady Thatcher was viewed as roughly half as strong again as he now is. Even in September 1990,

despite all her troubles, 22 per cent of voters thought Lady Thatcher understood the problems facing Britain, while just 17 per cent believe John Major now does.

But Mr Major is ahead of her by 20 to 11 per cent in terms of being more honest than most politicians, and being down-to-earth, where he has an edge of 12 to 8 per cent.

However, Mr Major is better placed on negative measures of leadership than Mrs Thatcher was. Fewer people regard him than her as being out of touch with ordinary people, narrow-minded, too inflexible or talking down to

people. The exception is that he is seen as inexperienced by a third of the public, while only 3 per cent took that view of her in September 1990.

Mr Major is behind the other party leaders on the nine positive measures of leadership, apart from being patriotic, where he is equal with Mr Ashdown. Mr Smith is top in having sound judgment, being down-to-earth and understanding the problems facing Britain, while Mr Ashdown is ahead as being good in a crisis, understanding world problems, having a lot of personality and being more honest than most politicians.

Mr Major is, however, ahead of current party leaders on negative measures such as talking down to people, narrow-minded, out-of-touch, inexperienced and too inflexible. As worrying for him is that just 30 per cent of Tories think he is a capable leader, while 37 per cent of Labour supporters take the same view of Mr Smith. Only 18 per cent of Tories believe Mr Major has sound judgment, while 28 per cent Labour supporters think Mr Smith has.

However, around a quarter of the public has no opinion or does not know about the opposition leaders, compared with less than a tenth for Mr Major.

Mr Major's personal rating, undertaken every month, also shows no pick-up. Only just over a fifth of the public, and a

half of Tories, are satisfied with the way he is doing his job as Prime Minister with two-thirds of the public (more than a third of Tories) dissatisfied. Just a tenth of the public are satisfied with the way the Government is running the country. Even more than a half of Tories are dissatisfied with the Government's performance.

■ MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1919 adults in 149 constituency sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on February 24 to 28. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (7 per cent) or refuse to name a party (3 per cent).

© MORI/The Times

Leading article, page 19

Q Here is a list of things both favourable and unfavourable that have been said about various politicians. Which do you feel fit?

	Mr Thatcher September 1990	Mr Major February 1994
Patriotic	28	24
More honest than most politicians	11	20
Understands world problems	27	17
Understands the problems facing Britain	22	17
Down to earth	22	17
Capable leader	39	11
Good in a crisis	46	7
Has sound judgement	17	7
Has a strong personality	24	5
Out of touch with ordinary people	63	51
Being narrow-minded	3	20
Rather narrow minded	31	24
Too inflexible	34	29
Tends to talk down to people	56	21

## Public concern focuses on health service

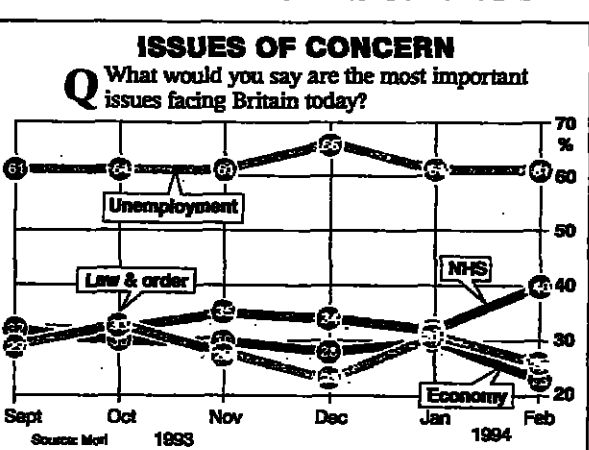
THE proportion of people regarding the National Health Service as among the most important issues facing Britain today has risen from 32 to 40 per cent since last January, the latest MORI poll for *The Times* shows.

The change is an unusually large one over a single month. Unemployment remains top of the list, mentioned by 61 per cent, followed by health, law and order, the economy and education.

The shift has been country-wide and does not reflect the row over reorganising central London hospitals. Refer-

ences to health by Londoners have only risen fractionally more than the national increase, though the level of mentions in the capital is above average at 50 per cent, and has been for several months.

The biggest increase in references to health has occurred among those nearing retirement age and pensioners and the lower middle and skilled working classes who are not eligible for social benefits and do not make private pension contributions.



## Scott condemns use of immunity in arms trial

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE future of Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, was further undermined yesterday when Lord Justice Scott delivered a ringing indictment of the Government's use of public interest immunity certificates in the Matrix Churchill trial.

Attacking the Government's claim that it has a right to protect all official documents from disclosure, Lord Justice Scott, who is conducting the arms-to-Iraq enquiry, said it should have been "unthinkable" for ministers and officials to attempt to withhold confidential Whitehall papers from a criminal trial. He challenged the Government's claim that failure to protect government documents from disclosure would inhibit officials from giving ministers "free and frank advice", and render the Government vulnerable to "cynical and ill-informed criticism".

His attack on the doctrine of government confidentiality will raise fears in Whitehall that it could lead to demands for the workings of government to be opened up to scrutiny far beyond anything envisaged by the open government initiative.

During the cross-examination of Gerald Hosker QC, the Treasury Solicitor, Lord Justice Scott said that public interest immunity certificates were originally intended to protect only highly sensitive documents which would cause "grave damage to the national interest" if disclosed. But they had been extended by the executive to cover a vast range of "relatively mundane" documents, a practice which appeared to be "inconsistent" with earlier legal rulings.

Four ministers signed immunity certificates in the Matrix Churchill trial, designed to prevent the disclosure of documents dealing with the export of defence equipment to Iraq. They acted on the advice of Sir Nicholas, who is due to give evidence to the enquiry later this month.

But Lord Justice Scott insisted that the importance of disclosing the documents to the defence in a criminal trial was "so strong as to make it unthinkable that anybody should use public interest immunity certificates to cover documents about which no more could be said than that they were confidential".

Mr Hosker was adamant, however, that ministers had a duty to sign the immunity certificates. He also insisted that a minister had a duty to argue against disclosure in court.

Lord Justice Scott asked whether a minister would be required to argue against disclosure in court if he believed the documents in question to be relevant to the trial, and if their disclosure would not threaten the public interest. Mr Hosker said the minister would be free to do so only if the Government's legal service agreed with him.

Lord Justice Scott said he found Mr Hosker's argument to be "unreal". He could not understand how a minister who had been put into high office to safeguard the public interest, who knew the documents were relevant to the defence, and that disclosure would not damage the public interest, was not free to make up his own mind.

Mr Hosker replied: "You are introducing the possibility for ministers to pick and choose when public interest immunity procedures can be followed. As an officer of the court, which I am, I simply cannot support that at all."

Earlier Mr Hosker told the enquiry how he became involved in deleting key sentences from witness statements which referred to government suspicions that equipment exported by Matrix Churchill would be used to manufacture missiles and shells, in order to eliminate the risk the confidential government documents would be released in court. The hearing continues on Wednesday.



Baroness Thatcher, speaking at the City of London conference on Gatt at Stationers' Hall yesterday

## Thatcher's fast exit foils question time

By JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

BARONESS Thatcher saved the Government possible further embarrassment over the Pergau dam affair when she abandoned plans to take questions after a speech at a City of London conference on international trade.

The former Prime Minister, who may yet be called to appear before the Commons foreign affairs committee looking into the £234 million Malaysian aid programme, had originally been scheduled to take 15 minutes of questions.

However, after delivering a 20-minute speech on "The Vital Need for an Open Trading System", Lady Thatcher hurried away without further comment.

Conference organisers said the plans had been changed because of worries that the media might have focused exclusively on Malaysia. "We decided it was not such a good idea," one said. "The important thing was to keep the conference on the important issues."

Gerald Howarth, the former Tory MP who is managing director of the firm running the conference, said speakers wanted to discuss international trade as a whole and not be side-tracked by one particular country.

Lady Thatcher and a close circle of her friends and advisers have been increasingly drawn into the Pergau affair in recent days. One, Sir Charles Powell, her former foreign affairs adviser, was

also speaking at the conference yesterday on the subject of world trade problems. He is now a director of Trafalgar House, one of the main British contractors involved in the construction of the dam.

The foreign affairs select committee has called on Sir Charles to provide written evidence of his advice to Lady Thatcher in 1988 and John Major in 1991 on the dam project.

At the same conference, Lady Thatcher launched another ferocious attack on the European Union, accusing it of lavishing twice as much money on protection against Third World imports as on overseas aid to nations "most in need of our help".

Comparing the EU "trading empire" with Bismarck's Germany, Lady Thatcher warned that its "illegal" trade policies would prolong political instability in Eastern Europe.

The union was particularly mean spirited in its trade policies towards Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. She said: "If ever there was a case for trade more than aid, this is it."

She called for a transatlantic free trade area linking the EU with its North American equivalent, Nafta.

Lady Thatcher reserved particularly scathing comment for the Maastricht treaty, which she said risked Europe's future prosperity and status "at the heart of the international trading system."

## World trade deal faces final hurdles

By JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

BANKERS and business executives were warned yesterday not to take for granted the world trade deal agreed by 117 countries last December. Dr Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade from 1980 to June last year, and one of the key figures in the seven-year Uruguay round of negotiations, said it would be dangerous to assume that the goal of global free trade had been irreversibly achieved.

Speaking at a City conference on

"World Trade After Gatt", Dr Dunkel said there was still scope for disagreement over the "host of detail" yet to be settled before the formal signing session in Marrakesh in April. An even more fundamental hurdle was ratification by the legislatures of the signatory countries.

Other speakers emphasised the potential dangers of last month's "discovery" of US Japanese trade summit. Haruko Fukuda, a director of the Nikko Europe securities firm, said "the failure of the summit, a diplomatic failure of significant proportions on the Japanese part, has sent shock waves through Japan".

The Uruguay round had yet to be tested, she said. "If the agreements do not make it possible for the leading trade nations to use the new system then the negotiators have failed," she said.

Malcolm Williamson, chief executive of Standard Chartered Bank, said there had been initial disappointment at the achievements of the Gatt round in relation to financial services. "After a little time sentiment has mellowed to the extent that the prevailing view now is that everything is to play for."

Attack on US, page 23

## Plan for criminal injuries tariff 'unfair and illegal'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, appeared embroiled in a new controversy yesterday over the legality of the Government's proposed new scheme for compensating victims of crime.

A line-up of law lords, as well as Tory and Labour peers lambasted the Government in a debate late on Wednesday night over the proposals, declaring them unfair to crime victims and unlawful. They said the proposals thwarted Parliament's wishes and warned that if on April 1 the Government brought in the new scheme, which creates a tariff system for compensation awards, it will face legal action.

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie,

for the Government, refused to confirm or deny whether legal advice had been taken.

The Attorney-General's department said yesterday: "It is normal practice not to divulge the law officer's advice or whether such advice has been given. But, in general, if there is a serious point about the legality of government action, then there will be a request for advice."

Tony Blair, Labour's home affairs spokesman, said he had written to the Home Secretary demanding an explanation. "In the debate several lords, including distinguished former law lords, claimed that the scheme was not just unfair, but illegal. If this is right ... the Govern-

ment will have committed its worst blunder yet on its law and order package."

Mr Blair said the basis for the illegality claim was that the 1988 Criminal Justice Act obliged the Government to put the existing scheme on a statutory basis, so it could then only be changed by consent of Parliament. The Government had never carried out that obligation. "But it exists nonetheless, and the point being made was that in those circumstances, your attempt unilaterally to change the scheme by the prerogative powers is flawed and illegal."

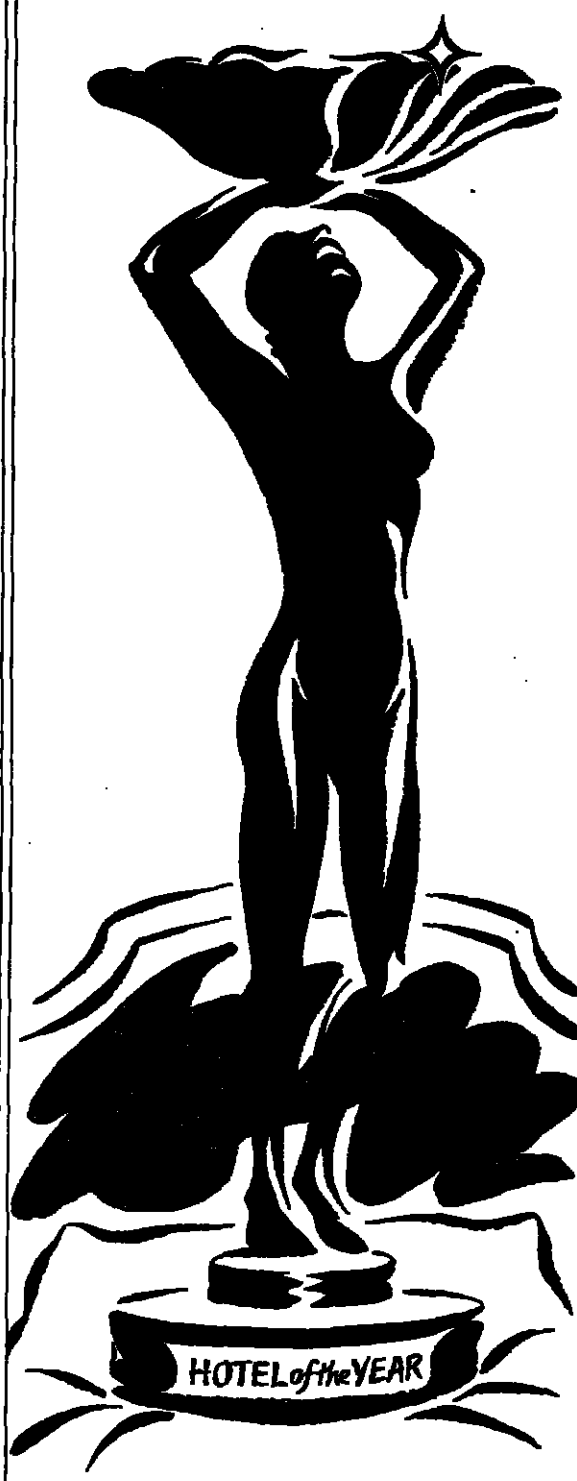
Critics say that victims of crime will receive drastically reduced awards for injuries under the proposed system.

## The week in Parliament

House of Commons  
Today: Private members' bills: Road Traffic Regulations (Special Events) Bill and Women in Parliament Bill, second readings.  
Monday: Motion on Building Societies (Ella States) Order.  
Tuesday: Social Security (Incapacity for Work) Bill, remaining stages.  
Wednesday: Motion to renew the Suppression of Terrorism Act. Motion to establish a Northern Ireland select committee.  
Thursday: Debate on an Opposition motion on sex discrimination.  
Friday: Private members' bill: Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill, second reading.

House of Lords  
Monday: Local Government (Wales) Bill, third reading.  
Tuesday: Sunday Trading Bill, second reading.  
Wednesday: Debate on the Transport and Road Research Laboratory. Treasury Bill, second reading.  
Thursday: Education Bill, committee, first day.

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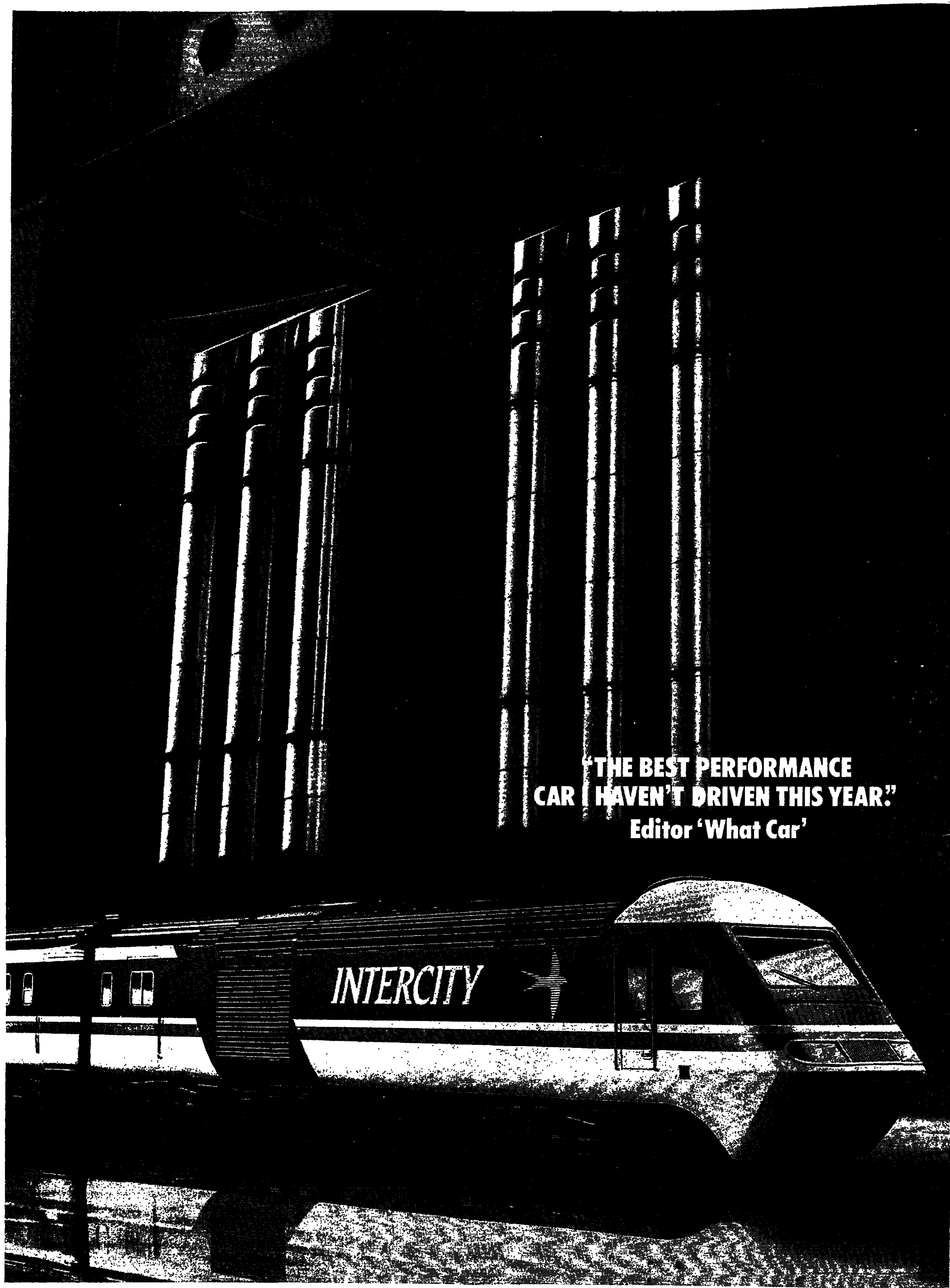
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## Asthma increases as dust mite thrives in the modern home

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

ASTHMA and allergies are on the increase in Britain because the basic principles of bed hygiene are being ignored, a report for the National Bed Federation says.

Homes with draughty windows and inadequate heating are far healthier because they do not encourage the house dust mite to breed in pillows, duvets and mattresses, John Maunder, of the Medical Entomology Centre in Cambridge, said in the report, released yesterday.

Dr Maunder said there was little doubt about the dominant role the dust mite played in inducing asthma and subsequent wheezy attacks. It is also a predominant cause of allergic rhinitis — a blocked nose.

More should be done to remind people of the rules of bedroom hygiene their grandparents followed. "Never have human dwellings been so poorly ventilated — full of dirty, humid, allergen-laden air," Dr Maunder said.

Dust mites live on skin fragments and flourish in the humid environment of beds that are not properly aired or cleaned and seldom replaced until the mattress becomes uncomfortable.

The faeces of the mite contain a protein believed to trigger asthma attacks. In humid houses, the mites can flourish anywhere. The drier

the house becomes, the fewer their refuges.

The bed remains a favourite place for the mites: humid because people lose 45 gallons of moisture a year while sleeping, and full of the skin fragments on which the mites feed. A tenth of the weight of a neglected pillow can consist of skin scales, mould, dead mites, living mites and dung.

In Victorian homes, allergen-laden air was removed quickly through chimneys and open windows. "A house standing in a 10mph wind might have had four air changes an hour," Dr Maunder said.

"A modern home, with its double-glazing, draught-excluding strips on doors and windows and lack of chimneys, might get half a change a

day if all the windows are shut."

Tom Sackville, a junior health minister who launched the report in London, said: "We recognise that the growth in asthma, especially among children, is a cause for concern. Any addition to our knowledge as to the causes and control of asthma are to be welcomed."

Dr Maunder said old-fashioned methods would counter the dust mite. People should sleep with windows open and air their beds each morning. Special anti-allergen covers for mattress and pillows help, but regular cleaning is vital.

Pillows should be cleaned at least twice a year; blankets, underblankets and duvets at least once a year; and mattresses and pillows should be vacuumed weekly when changing linen, with a window open so that allergen particles can escape.

Dr Maunder offers other tips:

- Do not damp dust because it increases humidity, improving the mite's food source.
- Do not keep pot plants or glasses of water in your bedroom. Do not dry washing indoors on radiators.
- Use special protective covers or mite-killing sprays and powders, but only on new or clean products.
- These principles apply to babies especially.



The house dust mite: at home in humidity

## Pork fattens the piggy bank

By Robin Young

PRICE-conscious shoppers may like to lay-in supplies of British pork for Easter roasts. Pigmeat is plentiful but prices are likely to rise shortly, so special offers on pork joints, pork sausages and bacon are especially attractive.

Dover sole of 12-14oz are good value at about £4.50 a lb and lemon sole fillets are a reasonable £3-£3.50 a lb. Better-than-usual buys among prime fish include bass at about £5.50 a lb, small "chicken" halibut about £5 a lb and whole John Dories for as little as £2.50 a lb.

As the native season for shellfish draws toward its close mussels are still plentiful at £1 a lb and the last top condition large native oysters are 50-80p each. There is plenty of oil-rich fish, with large North Sea herrings and Scottish mackerel at £1 a lb or less. The best buy is whiting, from £1 a lb on the bone or £2 filleted. English baking pota-

toes are 18-32p a lb. Italian and Egyptian new potatoes 24-55p and French salad potatoes 50-60p. A large, lush crop of Spanish broccoli is 59-96p a lb. Oranges are the best fruit buy, with Maroc Washington Sanguine red oranges new in at 10-12p each to supplement oval Jaffa shamos (10-25p each) and Spanish and Moroccan navel (12-32p).

Advertised best buys include:

- Asda: unsmoked streaky bacon 49p for 200g; fresh shin beef £1.69 a lb; cod fillet £2.29 a lb; whole kippers 89p a lb.
- Bagners: fresh sirloin steak £3.98 a lb; Young's frozen peeled prawns £3.99 for 400g; cooked turkey breast 59p a lb.
- Gateway/Somerfield: Cox's apples 20p a lb; fresh haddock fillets £1.99 a lb; Lincolnshire sausages 88p for 454g.
- Harrods: Scottish lined haddock, fresh or smoked over

whisky sawdust, £3.80 a lb; baby Cheshire cheese £15.95 each.

□ Iceland: 3lb pork shoulder £3.99; 3lb pork chops £2.99; cod fillets £1.99 for 680g.

□ Marks & Spencer: steak au poivre £4.99 for 14oz; plaice goujons £1.49 for 6.17oz pack; Côtes de Gasconne £2.99.

□ Safeway: boneless leg of pork £1.39 a lb; new potatoes 99p for 1.5kg; Bairaada Red £2.79.

□ Sainsbury's: bone-in pork leg 79p a lb; large pork and beef sausages 79p; Bergerac Rouge £2.19.

□ Tesco: Pork chops £1.24 a lb; lean pork mince 99p a lb; gutted trout £1.98 a lb; loose tomatoes 49p a lb; Marquis de Chive wines £2.39.

□ Waitrose: pork boneless leg roast £1.29 a lb; salmon steaks £3.95 a lb; tiger prawns £4.95 a lb.

□ Victoria Wine: Casa Barco £1.99; Basilicata £2.79; Rocher brut champagne £10.49.

## Executives jailed for Sizewell corruption

THREE executives were jailed yesterday at the end of a multi-million-pound corruption investigation that has spurred the engineering industry to clean up its act, according to a detective involved in the trials.

Projects such as the Channel Tunnel and Sizewell B Power Station had been tarnished through illegal payments, Southwark Crown Court was told.

The case is the last in a series of six, the culmination of three years' work by the Serious Fraud Office, investigating the sale of information about tenders for engineering projects. More than £25 million was found to have been paid out illegally.

Yesterday, Robert Wilcox, 51, of Colchester, Essex; Donald Richards, 58, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire; and Colin Read, 46, of Telford, Shropshire, admitted accepting almost £230,000 in connection with work on the Sizewell B nuclear power station in Suffolk and the Drax power station in North Yorkshire. They all worked for the Wolverhampton-based company NEI Thompson Kennicott.

Richards pleaded guilty to two charges of conspiracy to corrupt and Wilcox and Read admitted one conspiracy charge.

Richards was jailed for two years, fined £30,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,924. Judge Pearlman also made a confiscation order in the sum of £120,308.

Wilcox was jailed for 12 months. Read was jailed for six months and ordered to pay £7,924 costs.

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Vera Phillips-Griffith: she described Mr Hickman as "the kindest, gentlest man"

## Murdered lawyer had row with client

By A Staff Reporter

A LAWYER murdered in the doorway of his home had an angry dispute with a client a few days before his death, it was disclosed yesterday.

Colin Hickman, 55, died after a knife attack on Tuesday night at his home in Earlsdon, Coventry. He was found by Vera Phillips-Griffith, his girl friend, who had been upstairs.

Ms Phillips-Griffith, 49, said a client had visited Mr Hickman at his office, asking him to pursue a case. Mr Hickman, who specialised in civil law, especially personal injury cases, had advised against pursuing the case.

At a press conference yesterday Ms Phillips-Griffith said: "Last week or the week before a client came to the office and wanted him to pursue a case. Colin advised against it. He made a professional judgment and the client got very agitated. Colin rarely gets angry but he shouted at this man."

Ms Phillips-Griffith, a teacher, said she had been going out with Mr Hickman for four years. He moved into her house two years ago. "Colin was the kindest, gentlest man, who never did harm to anybody in his life and I loved him very dearly," she said. "He has been taken from me in a very brutal way."

"I say to the killer, don't be hunted down — you must give yourself up. I would also plead to anyone who may have seen him at the scene of the crime or who knew him."

Det Supt Bob Rankin, of West Midlands Police, said: "We have recovered a heavy blood-stained knife from a driveway of a house close to

the solicitor's home. It wasn't hidden, it was discarded, and it has been sent for examination.

"We have also recovered from the hallway of Mr Hickman's home a blue baseball cap with Santa Cruz written across the front of it, which is foreign to the property and it will be quite reasonable to assume that the attacker was wearing it."

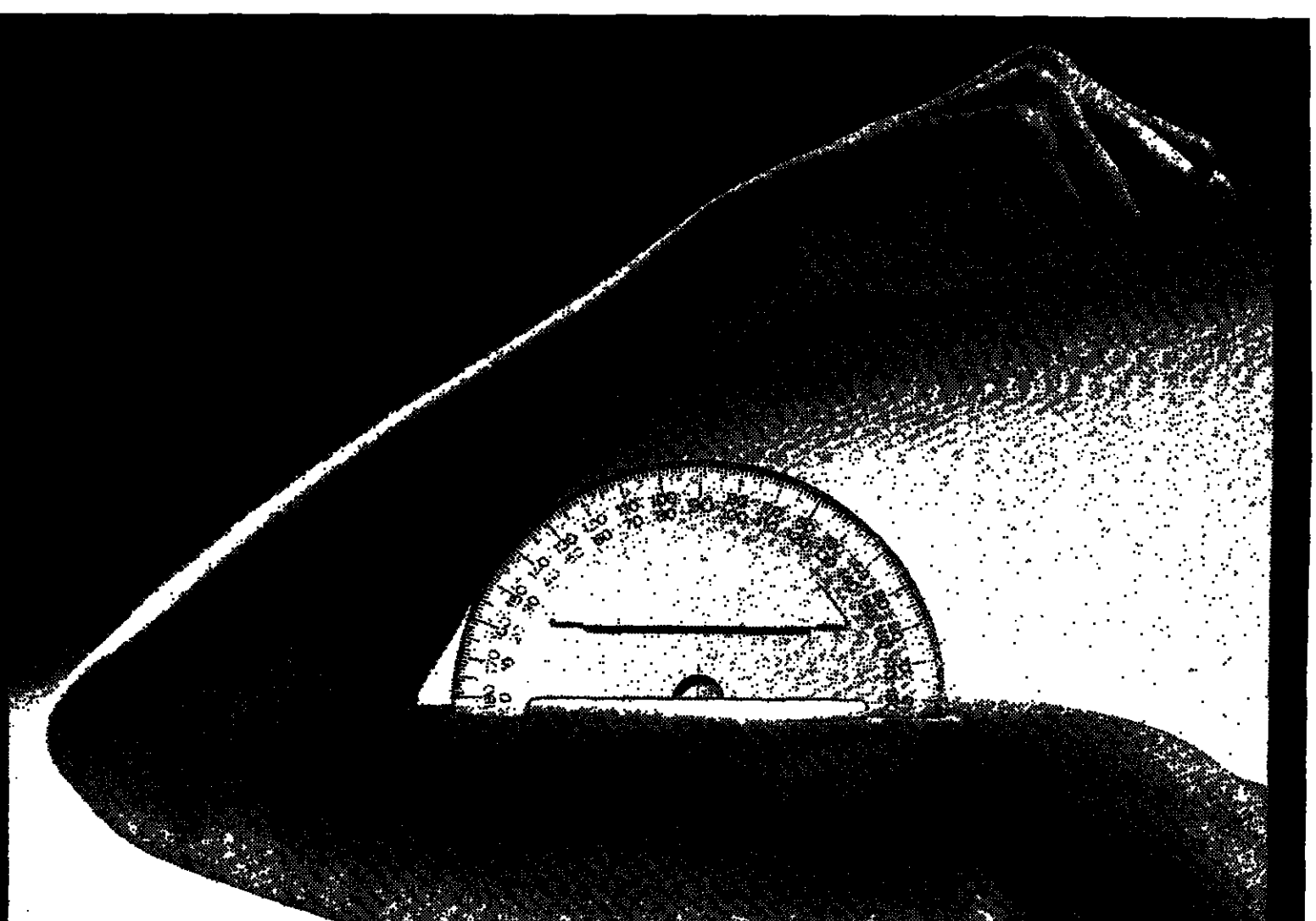
Mr Rankin said police officers were sifting through files at Philip Baker & Co,



Hickman killed in doorway of his home

Birmingham, where Mr Hickman worked. A witness told police that she saw a man running out across a road near Mr Hickman's home. "The man was white, 6ft, had long blond shoulder-length hair, wore a blouson-style jacket with what appeared to be a hood going over it," Mr Rankin said.

Mr Hickman lived in Australia for a number of years and had a daughter who still lives there.



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## Trade gloom lifts in Hong Kong

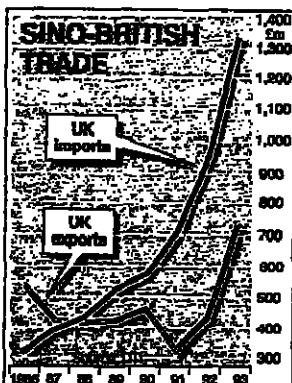
## Brittan wins Peking pledge on contracts

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

DESPITE much bluffing and puffing from Peking that British businessmen will lose Chinese contracts because of the policies of Chris Patten, the Hong Kong Governor, there is little if any hard evidence of such punishment.

For months Peking's officials, including the Ambassador to Britain, Ma Yuzhen, have been issuing warnings that the clash over Hong Kong will inevitably affect British trade. While Sir Leon Brittan, the European Trade Commissioner, was in Peking this week, Wu Yi, the Chinese Foreign Trade Minister, reaffirmed the threat, provoking a warning from Sir Leon that such acts could endanger China's entry to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

After this acrimony, Tuesday's statement by Sir Leon that he had been assured from "the very highest source in China" — in fact, a Deputy Prime Minister — that there would be no punitive actions



against any member state of the European Union, has relieved many an anxious Hong Kong tycoon as well as relatively modest traders.

"Sir Leon was extremely helpful," said Francis Cornish, Britain's senior trade commissioner in Hong Kong, whose responsibility is to promote British trade in Guangdong. "I wouldn't say British traders here are calm, but they are much

calmer, and certainly happier, than last week."

Mr Cornish was referring to the recent remarks by the Governor of Guangdong province that the policies of the Hong Kong Governor on constitutional reforms cost Britain a share of the contracts awarded last winter to build Canton's, won by German and French firms.

"Of course, that had nothing to do with the Governor's policies," Mr Cornish insisted. "Everyone knows it was because Chancellor [Helmut] Kohl went to China with an invitation to President Jiang Zemin in his back pocket to come to Germany and because France agreed not to sell any more jets to Taiwan."

Last night an American diplomat indicated in Peking that "a grand gesture" on human rights might be enough to secure President Clinton's renewal of China's most favoured nation trading status.

## Singapore sentences American to caning

By DAVID WATTS

TO OUTSIDERS it may appear barbaric but the Singapore government is certain that caning has a deterrent effect on potential criminals.

But the sentencing of a young American to six strokes of the dreaded *rotan* has brought the practice sharply into diplomatic focus. American representatives have intervened on behalf of Michael Peter Fay, 18, from St Louis, Missouri, who has pleaded guilty in a Singapore court to two charges of vandalism involving spray-painting cars, two of mischief for throwing eggs at cars, and one of retaining stolen property.

Fay's mother, who attended the hearing yesterday, cried as the district judge passed the sentence, which also included a fine of \$53,500 (£1,450).

"We see a large discrepancy between the offence and the punishment," said Ralph Boyce, the American chargé d'affaires. The use of the cane was criticised in the State Department annual human rights report last year.

Fay's lawyer said he would appeal, leaving the way open for a way out of what seems likely to turn into a diplomat-

ic confrontation. The amount of the bail money — £31,000 — indicates how seriously the Singapore judiciary views it.

The *rotan*, a length of bamboo up to 8 ft long, leaves those who receive it scarred for life both physically and mentally. Less serious offences of drug possession, violence, damage, anti-social behaviour and secret society membership may be punished by its use.

The convicted criminal is normally tied to a post with bare buttocks in such a way that he must stand on tip-toe, because the position is thought to permit less movement to help absorb the searing pain. The administrator of the punishment usually holds the *rotan* with both hands, and takes a run up before using the cane with all his strength.

A medical officer is present to ensure that the recipient is able to withstand the effects, which usually include the felling of the flesh so severely that a minimum of three months is needed for the wounds to heal. Thus a sentence of six strokes would be carried out at intervals, adding months of fearful anticipation to the trauma.



Michael Fay, 18, who pleaded guilty to five charges of vandalism, mischief and keeping stolen property, after the judge's verdict in Singapore yesterday

## Korea talks grind to halt despite Seoul concession

FROM BRUCE CHEESMAN IN SEOUL

TALKS between North and South Korea broke down yesterday after Seoul gave up its strongest negotiating weapon — the conditional suspension of annual military manoeuvres with America — in an attempt to get Pyongyang to scrap its alleged nuclear weapons programme.

The collapse throws doubt on Pyongyang's resolve to talk with Seoul. Negotiators, meeting for the first time in months at the truce village of Panmunjom, failed even to open discussions on the exchange of nuclear envoys, a prerequisite for the cancella-

tion of the Team Spirit manoeuvres, and could only agree to meet on Wednesday.

The North upset the South with two demands, telling Seoul to stop the planned deployment of Patriot missiles and asking for clarification on a recent call by President Kim Young Sam for summit talks with Kim Il Sung, the North's leader.

Meanwhile, experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency have carried out their first inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities in more than a year. As a result, America announced yesterday that it would resume high-level talks with the North on March 21.

The suspension of the manoeuvres and the insistence on nuclear inspections, hailed by Han Sung Joo, the South Korean Foreign Minister, as being the first step to solving the nuclear deadlock, are part of the "carrot and stick" approach to the North.

□ Air chief dies: General Cho Kun Hae, head of the South Korean Air Force, was killed yesterday when the helicopter in which he was flying crashed in flames on a mountain south of Seoul, the Defence Ministry said. (Reuters)



Han Sung Joo: carrot and stick diplomacy

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## Rabin releases hundreds of Palestinians to ease tension after mosque massacre

### Hurd offers to send peace force for Gaza

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

BRITAIN indicated yesterday that it was ready to send international observers to the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza to help protect the Palestinian civilian population from any further murderous attacks by armed Jewish settlers.

The indication came as Israel released hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in an attempt to soothe tensions in the wake of the Hebron mosque massacre a week ago.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, told Nabil Shaath, a senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, that Britain was sympathetic to his request for an international force in the occupied areas. However, he made it clear that the observers would not be armed. Officials said Britain was thinking in terms of "handfuls", not hundreds.

In Jordan, Karolos Papoulias, the Greek Foreign

Minister, said that the European Union, of which Greece holds the presidency, supported PLO calls for the protection of Palestinians and the disarming of Jewish settlers.

There are few precedents for sending an unarmed British protection force overseas, although officials were pointing

to British participation in the ad hoc observer force sent to South Africa after a United Nations resolution in 1992. This comprised 50 UN administrators, 15 police officers, of whom two were from the Metropolitan force, and people drawn from the Commonwealth and Organisation of African Unity.

Israeli sources in Jerusalem said that about 400 Palestinians, all of them members of Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction or other groups supporting the Middle East peace process, were set free from the Ketziot jail in the Negev desert and two West Bank prisons.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, was last night wooing the hard-line Tsomet party, which is likely to pull his coalition to the right and limit the government's flexibility in peacemaking.



Leading article, letters, page 19



Rashad Baz being led away from a Manhattan police station after he was charged with 15 counts of attempted murder. Mr Baz is accused of shooting at a van which was transporting a group of ultra-Orthodox Jewish students across New York's Brooklyn bridge on Tuesday

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\*Source: Compendium of Building Society Statistics and Central Statistical Office. Fixed Rate funds are issued on a first come, first served basis and are subject to availability. Rates correct as at time of going to press. Credit is not available to persons aged under 18 and is subject to status and conditions. Mortgage loans are available from National Westminster Home Loans Limited, 41 Lombard, London EC3P 2BP. Security and insurance are required. A written quotation is obtainable on request from National Westminster Bank Plc. 41 Lombard, London EC3P 2BP or 100 City Avenue, National Westminster Bank Plc is a member of the NatWest Life and NatWest Unit Trust Marketing Group and is a Member of IMRO. Representative example: A couple (male and female) both non-smokers aged 25, applying for a mortgage of £250,000 against a property valued at £250,000 over 25 years on the basis that the rate is fixed for the full period of the mortgage. Initial monthly payment of fixed interest would be £452.04 gross, £429.25 net. 30-month endowment premium £60.74. The total payable would be £136,120.20 gross, including £98.71 valuation fee, £11.70 estimated legal fees, £50 remittance fee and £250 arrangement fee at an interest rate of 8.45% **8.8% APR**. Following the fixed rate period interest rates may vary.

## Attack stirs fear of New York Arab-Jew feud

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE arrest of a Lebanese man, who allegedly opened fire on a van full of Hasidic students in New York this week, has heightened fears that the Arab-Jewish conflict in the West Bank has spread to America.

While police have refused to discuss a motive for the attack, which left one student clinically dead and another clinging to life, early reports quoted the suspect, Rashad Baz, 28, as telling investigators "this is for Hebron", a reference to last Friday's massacre of Muslims by Baruch Goldstein, a Brooklyn-born Israeli settler.

Mr Baz, a taxi driver from Beirut who entered the United States on a student visa in 1984, has been charged with 15 counts of attempted murder and various other assault and weapons charges in connection with the shooting on Brooklyn bridge. Police confiscated an arsenal belonging to the suspect and charged two other Arabs with hindering prosecution by helping to hide the guns and car used in the attack.

In an attempt to head off potential racial unrest, Rudolph Giuliani, the mayor, said that tips from New York's Arab community had led to the swift arrest and played down speculation that the incident was a revenge attack.

Mr Baz has reportedly confessed to the attack, but he claims the incident stemmed from a traffic dispute after the Hasidic students taunted him for wearing a kaffiyeh. He also told investigators that the occupants of the van fired first, a claim for which there is no evidence, according to police.

One source said Mr Baz had admitted to investigators: "Sometimes I don't like Jews." A police source said: "He's trying to say he got really mad at them and we're saying it

was a white van filled with Hasidim and he was driving around with an arsenal."

Immediately after the shooting, Mr Baz allegedly drove to a Brooklyn repair shop in an attempt to repair a shattered window. Several members of the public saw the car and tipped off police.

Mr Baz returned to his Brooklyn apartment, ordered pizza and silently watched television news reports of the injured students being taken to hospital. "He seemed fine to me," said his aunt, Gloria Akel. She added that she knew of no mosques or political organisations to which her nephew was affiliated. Mr Baz allegedly used two semi-

automatic pistols in the attack, part of an array of illegal weaponry retrieved by police including a stun gun, an automatic 12-gauge shot gun known as a "street-sweeper", and at least one bulletproof vest. Mr Giuliani said the police had "not ruled in or ruled out a conspiracy" to attack Jews in retaliation for the Hebron massacre. A search of Mr Baz's apartment has revealed little evidence of the suspect's personal, political or religious history, but some officials have speculated that he may have been stalking Grand Rebbe Menachem Schneerson, 91, the leader of the Hasidic Lubavitch sect. The van was returning to Crown Heights, Brooklyn, after delivering Rabbi Schneerson to a Manhattan eye hospital for a cataract operation.

At his arraignment yesterday, Mr Baz's lawyer claimed police had arrested the wrong man "in a rapid attempt to bring this case to a rapid close", but prosecutors insisted the suspect had been identified in two identity parades and had made statements on videotape and in writing. Another hearing will take place on Tuesday.



Giuliani: played down speculation

## Iran hangs 'Zionist' prisoner

FROM AFP IN JERUSALEM

IRAN hanged Feyzollah Mekhbad, a 78-year-old Jewish prisoner, after the Hebron mosque massacre on the occupied West Bank, his relatives in Israel said yesterday.

Mekhbad was arrested on May 30, 1992, on his way to the synagogue in Tehran and accused of "contacts with the Zionist entity". He had two sons in Israel, Mordechai and Aaron, and visited them in 1977 during the Shah's reign.

His Israeli sons said yesterday that their father telephoned his wife for the last time a week ago yesterday and was buried by Revolutionary Guards in a Jewish cemetery in Tehran on Sunday. This suggested he was executed on Friday or Saturday.

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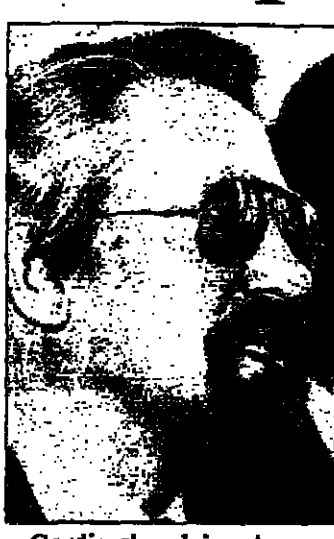
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# CIA prosecution unearths mole with habits of squirrel



Gordievsky: claims Ames tried to have him killed

RUSSIA launched a new volley in its espionage squabble with the West yesterday, saying a US diplomat encouraged two Russians to gather secrets about Moscow's T82 battle tanks. The accusation came days after the Kremlin said it had charged a Russian defence industry executive with spying for Britain.

Both announcements were seen as a response to the uproar in Washington over the arrest of Aldrich Ames, the CIA official accused of spying for the Soviet Union and Russia. Both cases allegedly occurred long before the CIA arrest last month. Andrei Kozlov, the Russian Foreign Minister, said last night that he would meet Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, in Vladivostok on March 14 to discuss the issues dividing Moscow and Washington.

Aleksandr Mikhailov, spokesman for the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service, Russia's top spy-catching agency, said one of the two Russians, Maxim Alyoshin, 23, a businessman, contacted a diplomat at the American Embassy in Moscow in January 1993. Mr Mikhailov said Mr Alyoshin offered to gather secrets about the battle tank. Mr Mikhailov identified the diplomat as Kelli Ann Hamilton. The switchboard operator at the embassy said last night there was no one there by that name. But a phone list from last spring lists a Kelli Hamilton as a second secretary. The embassy press office said it had no comment.

In London, Oleg Gordievsky, a former Soviet spy who worked as a double agent for Britain, claimed in an interview that Mr Ames had tried to have him killed. Mr Gordievsky, the KGB station chief in London in the 1980s who switched sides to work for MI6, told *The Spectator* that Mr Ames sentenced him to death by betraying him to the KGB, but that he had managed to escape. "He has the blood of a dozen officers on his hands," Mr Gordievsky said. "He would have had my blood, too, had I not managed to escape before the KGB had any [other] evidence against me."

In Washington, more details of the lavish lifestyle of Mr Ames and his wife, Rosario, during their nine years as the KGB's highest-paid spies emerged yesterday as the prosecution sought to force the couple to turn over \$2.2 million (£1.47 million) from their foreign bank accounts. FBI agents who searched the Ames' house in an affluent suburb for more evidence that he was a CIA double agent found a signed print by Marc Chagall, bowls of Meissen porcelain, glassware by the French sculptor René Lalique, jewellery embedded with rubies and diamonds, and a set of antique silver French cutlery running to 119 pieces. There were also costly icons, watches and ornaments, plus a receipt from La Côte Basque, one of New York's most expensive restaurants.

There were humbler items, including a piece of chalk with a blue mark at one end. The FBI claims that last October Mr Ames sent a signal to his Russian handlers by scratching a chalk line on a blue postbox along a route taken to work by staff of the Russian embassy in Washington. Mr Ames's meticulous hoarding of incriminating KGB and CIA documents would seem to indi-

*As the Aldrich Ames case intriguingly unfolds in America, Moscow says it has rumbled US attempts to steal tank secrets. Ian Brodie writes from Washington*

cast that he was as much a squirrel as a mole. The trail of evidence now coming back to haunt him certainly contravened the espionage etiquette of leaving no clues, as defined by John le Carré and other spy novelists.

Washington remains incredulous over the time taken to unmask Mr Ames, who first fell under suspicion as living beyond his modest CIA salary in 1989. Dennis DeConcini, chairman of the Senate committee that oversees America's intelligence budget of \$28 billion, demanded: "Why didn't a light go off?" when Mr Ames bought a \$500,000 house and a Jaguar car, both with cash, in 1989.

Additional reporting by AP in Moscow and AFP in London

## Right-wing allies register for South African poll

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN PIETERMARITZBURG

ANC agreement to international mediation has ensured conservative participation in elections. President de Klerk is already seeking votes in Natal

HOPES of a reasonably peaceful and comprehensive election in South Africa leaped yesterday as the Freedom Alliance of black and white conservatives decided to register for the polls. The deciding factor was the African National Congress's acceptance of international mediation on the constitution, proposed at the meeting this week between Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Nelson Mandela.

Chief Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party and Chief Minister of KwaZulu, said that once the arrangements for international mediation had been agreed he would be happy to begin campaigning. The ANC executive yesterday agreed to endorse the call for mediation, urging the establishment of a joint committee to discuss what form the mediation could take.

There has been talk of a single mediator such as Jimmy Carter, the former American President, but Chief Buthelezi said last night that a panel of constitutional law experts would be the best.

President de Klerk was touring the Natal Midlands with his election road show yesterday. On the question of mediation, he said that time was of the essence and that mediation "was not a very expeditious

## Mugabe land reform benefits minister

Wedza, Zimbabwe: The first beneficiary of President Mugabe's "revolutionary" campaign to seize white-owned farms to assuage the land hunger of millions of peasant farmers is Dr Witness Mangwende, the Cabinet Minister who bulldozed the controversial policy into law. *The Times* has established (writes Jan Raath).

Bath farm, 3,000 acres of prime cropping and grazing

land in the Wedza district about 75 miles southeast of Harare, the capital, was taken from Michael von Memery, its white owner, in a forced sale in July last year. Resettlement authorities made plans to settle 33 families from the nearby Wedza peasant farming area and even pegged their plots. But it has since been discovered that the land has been leased to Dr Mangwende.

said a stay-away vote was a vote for the ANC, they seemed to think that was a good idea. But when he said the ANC was a dangerous party, he heard disbelief.

He did tailor his message when he made it clear that the National Party was sorry for the injustice apartheid had caused. But he added: "The other parties have not said that they are sorry for the sorrow they caused. Have you heard an apology from the ANC for the necklace deaths they caused? Have you heard an apology from the ANC for the houses they burned down?"

He explained that his party was fighting for the honour and position of the Zulu King, Goodwill Zwelithini, and he added: "I am a white man, but my heart pumps the same red blood as pumps in the hearts of all South Africans."

The third group Mr de Klerk solicited for votes were the Indians, a significant community in Natal. He stood before a statue of Gandhi, surrounded by L. S. Moodley, a city alderman, Leila Maharaj, a party candidate, and Bhadrachandran, the one Indian in his Cabinet. Mr de Klerk praised the Mahatma as "the greatest Indian who has ever lived in South Africa". He urged the crowd not to be intimidated. "Stand up, as Gandhi would have asked you, if he had been here."

## Burma's freed prisoners glimpse a ray of hope

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN RANGOON

CHARGED with high treason and sentenced to ten years in prison, they endured solitary confinement in Rangoon's infamous Insein prison and saw colleagues die there for lack of medical attention.

Now they are non-persons, unemployed and unemployable, whiling away their time doing nothing much in the deep shadow of Burma's Big Brother military regime. "The government sacked me, nobody will hire me, and now we have to live on my wife's salary of 1,000 kyats (about £7) a month," said Khin Maung Swe, 52, a geologist and former MP for Burma's National League for Democracy (NLD), the party loyal to Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader, who is now in her fifth year of house arrest.

The NLD won a landslide victory in the 1990 elections, but the ruling military State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), which seized power and bloodily repressed pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988, denied it power and arrested many of its MPs.

Now, after last week's unprecedented meeting between Daw Suu Kyi and William Richardson, an American congressman from New Mexico, five former MPs — the geologist, a doctor, an author, a journalist and an advocate — see faint stirrings of hope for the future and are registering a

modicum of courage. Mr Richardson proposed a dialogue between Daw Suu Kyi and Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, the powerful chief of SLORC's military intelligence, and the regime is considering the suggestion.

The fact that the former MPs are now prepared to speak on the record is a positive sign that international



Suu Kyi: now in fifth year of house arrest

fully, through dialogue, a dialogue between Daw Suu Kyi and General Khin Nyunt.

In an office in Rangoon, the two former MPs, speaking hesitantly, reflected on their time in Insein, where 31 legally elected MPs are still imprisoned. "As we were MPs, there was no physical torture for most, but we were treated as criminals," said U Hla Oo. "We were arrested and led to prison blindfolded in October 1990. We were not allowed newspapers or pencils. We slept on cement floors and had no blankets or mosquito nets — and no family visits for six months."

"We suffered only psychological torture, but our friend, the NLD MP Tin Maung Win, died in Insein prison on January 18, 1991, from untreated stomach trouble," said U Maung Swe.

They said they were released less than two years into their sentences after military interrogators questioned them about current political attitudes. Their freedom of association is still limited, but the five meet almost daily.

Although the junta claims to have released 2,000 political prisoners last year, the former MPs say only 200 real political detainees were freed, the rest being simple villagers arrested in sweeps through areas where ethnic insurgents were active.



The Princess Royal thanking her guide in Hanoi yesterday after visiting the 13th-century Temple of Literature, the first university in Vietnam

## Princess Royal urges Vietnam to keep children safe and well

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN HANOI

THE Princess Royal met leaders of Vietnam yesterday to emphasise the need to protect the health and safety of the nation's children. Vo Van Kiet, the Prime Minister, welcomed the Princess, who is president of Save the Children, and her small entourage at the government office in Hanoi, where the two sides talked for 40 minutes.

"The Prime Minister appreciated very much the work done by Her Royal Highness in helping the children in developing countries," said Le Mai, the Deputy Foreign

Minister, after the meeting. "He considers that this is a very important field of activity, and gives encouragement to people and children everywhere," Mr Mai added.

Save the Children became active in Vietnam in 1966 and opened offices in the country three years ago. The Princess is the first member of the royal family to visit Vietnam. The country is her third stop on a four-nation tour that began on February 22 and has included Ethiopia and Eritrea. She travels to Hong Kong on Sunday.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Girl aged 4 convicts killer of her father

Rome: Evidence from a four-year-old girl has led to the conviction of a man who killed her father while he held her in his arms. Italian newspapers reported yesterday.

"That man there hurt me with a pitchfork and then killed daddy. I know his face," Alice Errigo, who was aged three when her father was murdered, had told a court in the northern town of Monza.

The court sentenced labourer Filippo Fiarra, the man picked out by the little girl, to 22 years 6 months in jail on Wednesday for the murder of Stefano Errigo in October 1992. Signor Errigo was attacked at the riding school he ran and killed with a bullet through the neck.

#### Children killed

Baghdad: An American landmine dating from the 1991 Gulf War over Kuwait killed three children in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, the Iraqi News Agency said. (Reuters)

#### Far-right gains

The Hague: Far-right parties claimed strong gains in local elections in The Netherlands, a country traditionally renowned for tolerance of foreigners and ethnic minorities. (Reuters)

#### Painting offer

Oslo: Norway's Culture Minister said a man had offered to arrange the return of Edvard Munch's famous painting "The Scream", stolen last month, for a reward of more than £700,000. (Reuters)

#### Health doubts

Washington: Two new polls in American newspapers show that for the first time more Americans now oppose than support President Clinton's health care plans.

#### Rights pledge

Geneva: José Ayala Lasso, the UN's first High Commissioner for Human Rights, pledged "constant vigilance" to ensure governments observed universal rights principles. (Reuters)

#### Vatican move

Rome: The Vatican has established diplomatic relations with Jordan in its latest move to bolster ties with the Arab world to counter-balance its recent recognition of Israel. (Reuters)

#### Implant leak

Houston: Three makers of silicone breast implants have been ordered by a jury to pay \$12.9 million (£8.6 million) dollars to three women who fell ill from implants that suffered leaks. (AFP)

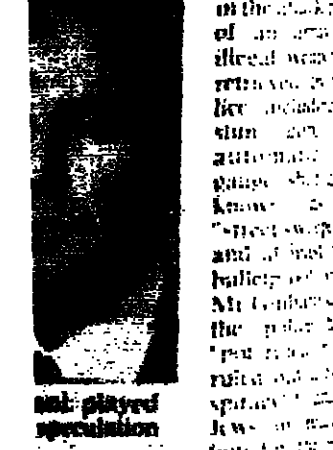
#### Save that tiger

Delhi: Fourteen countries worried about the dwindling population of the world's tigers due to poaching formed a Global Tiger Forum here to check the animal's threatened extinction. (Reuters)

## stirs fear New York Jew feud

REPORTERS IN NEW YORK

was a white van filled with Jews and he was surrounded with an arsenal of weapons. Mr Bar was shot in the chest and taken to a Brooklyn hospital in an attempt to save his life. Mr Bar was shot in the chest and taken to a Brooklyn hospital in an attempt to save his life.



Mr Bar's apartment was searched for weapons after the shooting

At his apartment on Tuesday, Mr Bar's lawyer said police had arrested a man in a taxi who was driving this car. The car was found to be a stolen car, but the driver was not identified in the report and had been seen on video surveillance. Another man was seen in the car on Tuesday.

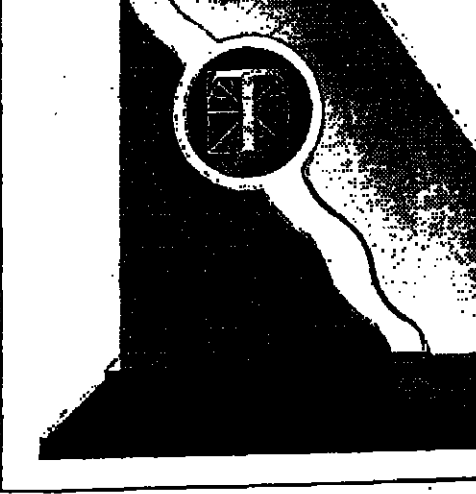
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Who do you turn to for help when you are desperate about a missing loved one?

## The worst fear of all for parents

Mrs B hasn't seen her daughter for nearly 20 years. She left home after a series of arguments and drifted around the country doing menial jobs. The last time she called she was in the Gloucester area. Mrs B never heard from her again.

On Monday, Mrs B heard on the radio that bodies were being dug up in the garden of a house in Gloucester. One of the skeletons was the daughter of the house's owner. Another has been named as 18-year-old Shirley Robinson, who was heavily pregnant at the time of her death. Last night the third body had still not been identified.

Mrs B felt dizzy and faint. She had imagined every fate for her daughter — sometimes she knew she was dead, at other times she had an inkling that she was living far away, perhaps even married. This grisly discovery could mean that years of uncertainty were over. Either way, she had to know.

Unable to sleep, Mrs B called the Missing Persons Bureau in south London. Over the past few days this charity has had to take on 12 extra staff to help its usual team of 15 handle the calls. The 24-hour helpline has buzzed continually with people convinced that their sister, friend or cousin was the anonymous corpse.

There are 250,000 people missing in Britain and police say they do not have the manpower or resources to look for them all. If your loved one disappears and is not classed as vulnerable — that is, under 18, over 65 or mentally ill — or foul play is suspected, you will probably be told there is nothing they can do.

Scotland Yard are about to launch a central missing person's register, based on the American model, which local police will be able to check when they arrest someone or find a body. This will help cross names off the list but still makes no active effort to trace people.

This is where the Missing Persons Bureau steps in. It was set up five years ago by two senior police officers who felt relatives needed a helpline offering emotional support and practical advice. "We didn't realise how much we would be needed," says Mary Asprey,

a co-founder with her sister Jane Newman.

The calls poured in — the charity receives 30,000 a year — and two years ago it began to organise active searches. Photographs are displayed in the media and on poster sites and the MPB liaises with police all over the country. Its pride and joy is a computerised ageing machine, a corporate donation, which can age a subject's photographic image, showing how a child may have turned out.

The results have been heart-warmingly positive. Appeals in *The Big Issue* magazine have been 61 per cent successful and a nightly one-minute slot on Carlton Television, 70 per cent. Nobody is sure how many reunions have been achieved, but they run into thousands. "It's very rewarding," Mrs Asprey says. "Often people do not realise they are missing until they see the posters, or else they thought nobody cared what happened to them."

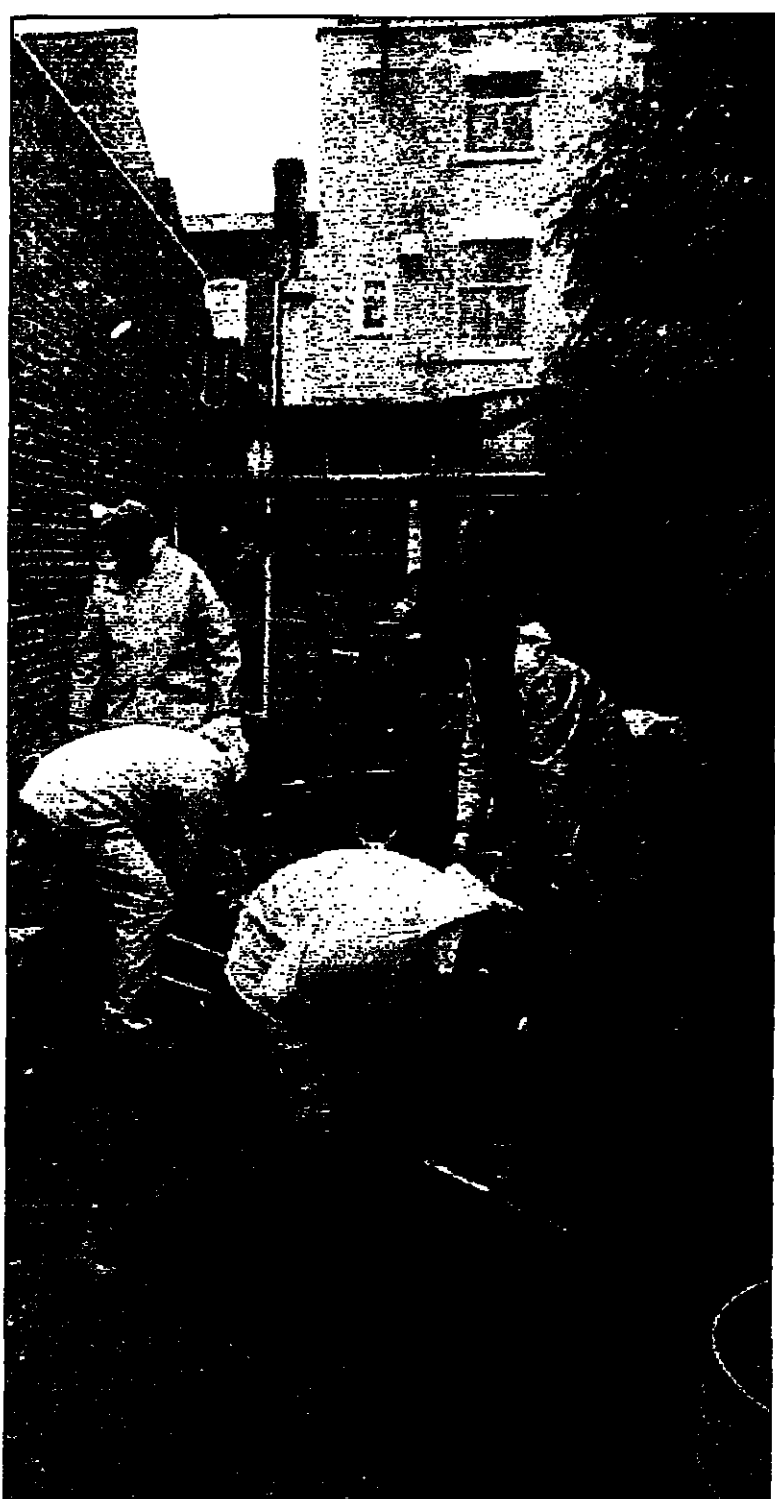
A recent coup was the discovery of a 73-year-old man, missing since 1990. "His family assumed something awful had happened to him," Mrs Asprey says. "There were no photos, so we had a sketch done and it was broadcast on Carlton. One minute later we had a phone call from a hospital saying 'we are dying to know who he is'. He wanted to go home, but he couldn't remember where home was."

More common, however, is the missing husband, plagued by debts, who goes out to the shops and never comes back. In this case a search would not be organised. "It is very tragic but it is unlikely he would want to be found," Mrs Asprey says. "All we could do is offer practical advice and talk to the family. Slowly, it starts to click that things weren't going right."

At other times, stress can lead to temporary amnesia. "For some reason, this seems to be especially common in the computer world. People have mini breakdowns when they forget who they are for several months."

Such cases were especially frequent last year, because of the recession, but seem now to be easing off. Now Mrs Asprey is more concerned with the growing numbers of disappeared teen-

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH



Garden of death — the house where three bodies have been found

agers. About 100,000 missing people are under 18. "It does appear that people hang around school gates, offering children drugs. Fifteen and 16-year-olds are enticed out of school into city lives and ghastly conditions."

In these cases we get moving very quickly, putting posters up everywhere. Some children are delighted to be rescued — one girl described her stay away as her brain-dead period. Others become so influenced by older people that they choose to stay in pretty terrible situations. The pressure causes many families to break up."

Relatives are always tortured with thoughts of gruesome endings, fuelled by such incidents as the one in Gloucester. MPB staff must reassure them that such incidences are unusual. So far they have dealt with only about five murder cases, but it is precisely this rarity that makes them so distressing.

"The other week we put a girl's picture in *The Big Issue*," Mrs Asprey says. "Her boyfriend rang up and said: 'I killed her three months ago and I will tell you where she is.'"

Missing Persons Bureau 081-392 2000

## A grand old man or a great old bore?

A century ago Gladstone bowed out to the tears of his blubbing Cabinet



Gladstone: he lost control

A hundred years ago yesterday, W.E. Gladstone wrote a formal letter to Queen Victoria announcing his resignation as Prime Minister. Two days earlier, at his final Cabinet, senior ministers, delivering their valdiorities, had broken down overcome with emotion. Gladstone, one of his ministers was later to recall, "looked on with hooded eyes and tightened lips at this maladroitness performance". He was later to refer to it as "the blubbing Cabinet".

"The People's William" was 84 and had been Prime Minister four times. When he died in 1898, A.J. Balfour, the Conservative Leader of the Commons, called him "the greatest deliberative assembly that the world has seen". Those who had been forced to put up with his wayward habits were not so charitable.

When, in 1856, he had presented to Cabinet his scheme for Irish Home Rule, the Chancellor, Sir William Harcourt, had felt as if he were in a lunatic asylum; and by 1894, Gladstone's friend, the historian Lord Acton, found him "wild, violent, inaccurate, sophistical, evidently governed by resentment". Gladstone's resignation was ostensibly on grounds of health. The Queen, who had long abhorred his characteristic tactics of circumlocution and prevarication, pointedly told him that she was "sorry for the cause which brought about my resignation". The reality, however, was that he had lost control of his Cabinet. In opposing proposals for an increase in naval expenditure, Gladstone found himself almost alone.

He suggested a dissolution of Parliament and an election to curtail the Lords, a proposal Harcourt called "the act of a selfish lunatic". His colleagues refused to allow him to dissolve. They could not wait to get rid of him. Nor could the Queen, who offered him no word of thanks for his many years of service, and declined to consult him on a successor. The coldness of his final interview with her, haunted him for the rest of his life.

Like Margaret Thatcher in 1990, Gladstone felt himself brought down by a Cabinet conspiracy. Yet, in reality,

both leaders had outstayed their welcome. Gladstone's moralism was becoming irrelevant in a world of competitive armaments and imperial rivalry; while his lack of sympathy with new ideas of social reform made him a relic.

Thus, even before he retired, "Gladstonian" had become a term of embarrassment and even of reproach. While Disraeli's legacy still animates the Conservatives, Gladstone left nothing constructive. Today, his greatest admirers are found not in the Liberal Party, but among politicians from other parties remembering a past that never was. Margaret Thatcher has claimed that Gladstone, were he alive today, would be a fully paid-up member of the Tory Party.

Roy Hattersley, by contrast, admires Gladstone the crusader, precisely because he repudiated the ethos of his day, corrupted as it was by materialism and business values. Yet, for neither of them is Gladstone the living presence which Disraeli for many

Conservatives still remains.

In democratic political systems, great leaders undermine their parties more often than they succeed in rescuing them. Lloyd George destroyed the Liberals. Churchill held on for so long that he ruined his successor's self-confidence. Margaret Thatcher imposed upon her party a successor whom she now regards as inadequate. By the time of his resignation, Gladstone's Liberals had become, in the words of one historian, a party "of faddists, a collection of cranks, each with his own cure for the ills of the nation". Fifteen months later, the Liberals were to go down to the worst defeat suffered by any political party for over 60 years.

Gladstone's retirement marks the point when the Left came to be transformed from a natural party of government to a party of opposition. In the 62 years since his entry into Parliament in 1832, there had been only three majority governments of the Left for only 23 years.

It is often believed that charismatic leadership is a prerequisite for electoral success. British history affords little evidence for this belief. Lloyd George and Churchill had more experience of losing elections than of winning them. In the 20th century, Margaret Thatcher apart, landslides have been won by quite unremarkable politicians — Campbell-Bannerman, Baldwin, Attlee — able to merge their personalities with their parties, rather than seeking to dominate them.

Thus Conservatives today, like the Liberal Party in Gladstone's time, find it impossible to make up their minds whether their purpose is to extend the legacy of a great leader or to repudiate it. Veering hither and thither between the two alternatives, they succeed in achieving neither. Unable to exorcise the leader who once dominated them, the Conservatives, like the Liberals of a hundred years ago, have begun to appreciate the truth of Emerson's dictum that every hero becomes a bore.

VERNON

BOGDANOR

The author is Reader in Government at Oxford University and a Fellow of Brasenose College.

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# The Shadowlands boy is alive and well and living in Ireland defying Satan



The Shadowlands boy, Douglas Gresham — "Tony Hopkins is not physically like Jack, who was a scruffy chap... a round-shouldered, stooped, balding type"

## 'I was blinded by my own self-pity... a typical callow youth'

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

The audience of *Shadowlands*, which opens tonight already garlanded with laurels, may wonder what happened next to Joy Gresham's young son, seen at the end of the film scampering down a grassy slope, united in grief and in companionship with his stepfather C.S. Lewis, known as Jack.

The small boy, Douglas Gresham, is now 48, with a grizzled beard. Last night he was in his tuxedo meeting the Prince of Wales at the film's premiere. The night before he was in his guernsey sweater and mottled knee-high boots, in the remote pastures of County Carlow, south-west of Dublin. This is where the Lord has led him, and where I pursued him, to a fine old house with many rooms.

The interesting Mr Gresham is a lean, spare figure; his eyes have a glaring intensity particularly when he is speaking — as he frequently does — about the evil ways of Satan.

The life of the boy from *Shadowlands* could never have been other than odd. He was wrested from upstate New York to the Oxford dons' world of the 1950s, reproduced, with its pipe-smoke and aphorisms and inter-don rivalries, in Richard Attenborough's film. Gresham's father had been a screenwriter (*Nightmare Alley*) but turned into an angry alcoholic — hence his mother's departure with her sons to England.

For an American boy the English public school system (Douglas was sent to several, including Magdalen College School) was, he says, the worst and cruelest environment for an emigre with a sensitive nature. He was ten when his mother became ill, and 14 when she died. Meanwhile his father, discovering he had cancer of tongue and throat, killed himself.

As *Shadowlands* reflects, Lewis was a kind stepfather. But Lewis was to die himself three years later, on the day Kennedy was assassinated. Step-uncle Warren Lewis sur-

vived for a decade, but in a haze of drink. The adolescent Douglas was no help to Jack or Warren. "I was blinded by my own self-pity... a typical uncaring, callow youth," as he wrote in his own admirable memoir, *Leuten Lande*.

The traumatic events of his childhood took some getting over. What really rescued him was the love of a good woman, i.e. Merrie, daughter of a British colonial officer. Merrie is blonde and bouffant and sits quietly while Gresham talks. They met when he was

18, she 21. He had gone to work at Sir Edward Malet's Somerset farm. One day he was told that Sir Edward's tubby young niece was arriving from Australia, and he was to meet her at Taunton station. She fell for him on the platform. She resisted the farmhand with no money, or prospects; but he was dogged and they married grandly in Westminster Cathedral in 1965, before getting a £10 assisted passage to Australia. There they stayed for 25 years, and raised their

five children; Gresham working as a sheep shearer, wallaby hunter, bulldozer driver... and "television personality" — not hard, he says, in Western Australia.

So what, apart from the Lord, has brought them to Ireland? First, the C.S. Lewis literary trust. This is run from Geneva by a man named Sieber, and although Gresham sold his share of the estate in 1976, he is paid as a full-time creative consultant, a global job that was hard to carry on from Tasmania.

"It became obvious that the Lord was re-shaping our lives." So they sold the Tasmanian farm. But England was too over-populated, and America too susceptible to the wiles of Satan. Then they found this Irish haven. "It was obvious that the Lord had this house in mind. We got down on our knees in what is now our daughter Lucinda's bedroom, and prayed to the Lord... and the owner gave us £25,000-worth of furniture."

"We knew this was the Lord's way of saying He wanted us to be there, to provide a Christian centre. We welcome the jaded ministers of any church, to rest and recuperate. Whoever God sends." But I must not divulge his address, or Satan might send people also, and drain their cup of giving.



THE THREE ELDEST BOYS

The three eldest boys are scattered, but they still have Lucinda at 17 and their adopted daughter, Melody, an enchanting Korean aged nine, currently engrossed by *Prince Caspian* in the Narnia saga.

Gresham tells me he had a Damascus vision three years ago. The catalyst was "an experience which forced me to re-evaluate my thinking processes. With my pride and arrogance, I hurt somebody I loved, hurt my family, made a balls-up, and was forced to re-evaluate everything."

This sounded like a round-about confession of infidelity. "It was not sexual," he says. "I tried to help someone, and there was sexual by-play... and I was very foolish." Since then the Lord has been his lord as well as his saviour.

He thinks he and the Prince of Wales have much in common. "The most remarkable thing about both of us is our mothers. He's a nice, intelligent man, for whom the circumstances of his birth have made life difficult. I feel desperately sorry for him. But God loves us both."

Now the Greshams are involved with something called the Institute for Pregnancy Loss and Child Abuse Research and Recovery, which teaches psychotherapists to treat psychoses caused by

having been abused as children, or having lost a child, especially through abortion, which in Gresham's view is Satan's work.

"The organised churches of the world draw a dark curtain of religion across the blinding face of God, obscuring the reality of Jesus Christ by ritual and liturgy. Satan will do anything to divide Christians. Even a trivial matter like women priests." (In this respect he reflects Lewis: "Secularism was one of Screwtape's most effective

weapons against Christianity.") As for A.N. Wilson's biography of C.S. Lewis, which postulated a liaison between Lewis and his friend's mother, it was Wilson "listening to the lies of Satan".

However, Gresham greatly enjoyed seeing *Shadowlands* filmed. Allowing for the inevitable pining down of complexities, he thinks it a true picture. "The scene in which Jack and I share our grief, did take place. Jack got on with children perfectly easily. He

confirmed Streisand fan but now he felt that she had not said enough publicly about AIDS. "Other gay icons, such as Cher, Bette Midler and Patti LaBelle, are less silent. Barbara is so famous that anything she said would be very powerful."

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# Bailiffs scarper with the takings

## My fine in their pocket?

I MUST say, things have come to a pretty pass when even the bailiffs go bust. Round here we are all reading, pop-eyed, the curious story of how a large local firm of private bailiffs has evaporated with debts of £250,000, its director untraceable, its deserted offices raided by police with sledgehammers, and courts all the way from Kings Lynn to Guildford plaintively reporting the non-arrival of fines.

The Lord Chancellor's Department has kindly informed us rural felons that provided we have a receipt, we needn't pay again. If not, we will be "dealt with on a case-by-case basis". Which means, I suppose, that someone will try to guess whether we really paid the vanished bailiffs, or whether we are just pretending.

The eyes do, indeed, pop. Innocent souls may have been under the impression that when heavies come round to insist on the payment of court fines, the said heavies are at least our own. That however unwelcome, they are civil servants paid for by our taxes and inhabiting offices painted in dingy Whitehall beige, and full of 1930s rectitude.

The sort of places, perhaps, where Mr Major's old maids spend the morning tapping out threatening letters after their early morning cycle ride to Holy Communion through the mist. Innocents as we were, we never suspected that there was even the remotest possibility that our drunk-and-disorderly fines might end up financing dusky beauties on Copacabana beach.

Rum, I call it. However, my legal advisers tell me, with a certain gloom, that while many bailiffs are still public officials, upright and slow-moving, the courts are increasingly turning to the private firms which flourished in the bailiff-boom occasioned by the poll tax (and are now suffering a bit of a bailiff-bust). They check them out very carefully, of course; most are of positively stifling probity.

But it is worth mentioning that this week's vanished company was actually censured last year by a senior police officer for "using illegitimate threats", so it may well be that all the checking-out in the world cannot, once the profit motive is introduced to law enforcement,

guarantee the public against the rough stuff. But we knew that already from the private wheel-clampers. Speaking as a mildly insubordinate citizen, I never mind being reprimanded and fined by police; but do mind very much having my minor law-breaking used as a unit of someone's profitability.

The police, one hopes, measure efficiency in terms of clear traffic flow and a co-operative citizenry. Therefore, their judgment about whether to clamp a car whose driver is in the act of helping an old lady up her front steps ten paces away is radically different to the judgment of some entrepreneur for whom reasonableness holds no profit, and every clamping is money in the bank.

Nor, when they finally send me down, do I relish the idea of a free enterprise prison staffed by Group 4 warders. Except, of course, that it might improve my chances of getting out.

You catch my drift? Few could deny that when the Thatcher whirlwind struck, some public services really were in dire need of an infusion of hungry, go-getting private efficiency. It has not harmed Telecom, and rosy reports reach my ears daily of privatised dustmen.

Even the threat can work wonders: local authorities in fear of losing their sway over swimming-pools have smartened up their act noticeably, and started treating us as clients rather than intrusive and possibly diseased nuisances.

As to the Post Office, and the railways, I prefer them as national jewels, not least because of our straggling geography and the unlikelihood of Upper Smeringham or Kilmobervie getting a fair crack of the whip in profit-making hands; but if pressed, I would give it a chance.

But there is a line to be drawn around matters involving time and punishment. My crime, my punishment, my avenging if I am the victim: these things are a private matter between me and my country.

If it comes to the point where people have to bang on my door to get what I owe, I may not deserve much of my country; but I do, I think, still deserve to have direct dealings with it, uncluttered by the profit motive of third parties.



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## My God, we're touching her things!

The sale of Barbra Streisand's eccentric art collection has her adoring fans goggle-eyed

The frenzied bidding for Barbra Streisand's worldly goods resumes today at Christie's in New York as dedicated fans of the singer mix with serious collectors of art deco and art nouveau. Streisand's decorative-arts antiques were described by the auctioneers as "a true connoisseur's collection, meticulously gathered according to her standards of excellence". But many bidders had no interest in artistic excellence: all they wanted was a little piece of Barbra.

The sale opened yesterday afternoon, with millions of dollars changing hands over the collection, which includes a Tiffany glass cowbell lamp and Tamara de Lempicka's 1930s painting of Adam and Eve. The difference between this auction, and the usually rarefied Christie's affair, became apparent at the packed viewing sessions. "Do you think she really brushed her hair with that?" said a bottle-blond woman in a pink anorak examining the singer's art deco vanity set, inlaid with celluloid, aluminium and green plastic (estimate \$300 to \$500). "My God, we're touching her things!"

Recognising this, Christie's put a

photograph of Streisand on the catalogue, rather than the usual art work, and ran a video of Streisand talking dreamily about her acquisitions. "What did Rembrandt grind up in the pigment of the paint to give it that luminescence?" she muses. "How did Tiffany make that glass?"

The 51-year-old star of *Funny Girl*, *Hello Dolly*, *Yentl* and the Clinton inauguration ball explained this sudden need to divest herself of \$34 lots she was, at heart, just a simple girl. "I want only two houses rather than seven," she said when she decided to donate her \$15 million Malibu estate to charity as the Streisand Centre for Conservancy Studies. The two women examining the hairbrush were both lifelong fans, had all the albums, and were worried about where Barbra would now live. "Perhaps she'll move to Jersey," said one optimistically, referring to her own home state of New Jersey.

As is clear from some of Streisand's early buys — hideous cocktail shakers and garish china figurines — the tastes of New Jersey folk were at one time not far from her own, developed as a child in Brooklyn. "I don't know where a person gets an eye because I



Not going for a song: Lempicka's Adam and Eve

didn't grow up with a sense of it around me," she confessed before the sale. "My mother used to put newspapers on the floor and plastic covers on the furniture — plastic on the lampshades, plastic everywhere." Streisand started collecting at 15, and her art deco and art nouveau obsession lasted 30 years. One of her

Malibu houses had every room decorated (some said over-decorated) in pink and silver deco style. The rooms were featured on the December cover of *Architectural Digest* magazine, a convenient come-on for the auction. After "exercising my creativity", Streisand declared herself bored with the perfected house.

Since the sale is the contents of entire houses, there is something wonderfully voyeuristic about breathing the perfume of lounging robes and pale lavender silk caftans, looking for the size label on a Zandra Rhodes creation, stroking the three-piece monkey-fur ensemble and studying the portrait of Barbra sitting on a canopy bed eating chocolate cake.

"There's a lot of shock here," said an Upper East Side lady. "Junk," she mouthed silently. "Oh no, I'm not buying anything, dear. I just came to take a peek."

Aside from middle-aged ladies, Streisand has a hot following in the gay community, and dozens of smartly dressed young men had come to moon about in pairs, some over a contemporary club chair upholstered in pink cotton. Streisand's make-up chair from her Beverly Hills home, it had a more \$100 estimate.

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## Philip Howard



French and English are sisters under the skin, even if the peoples are not

French and English is much more than a boisterous children's team game of capturing each other's castles and rescuing prisoners. It expresses a love-hate rivalry between grown-up siblings of the Roman Empire, and disguises the awkward intimacy between two neighbours.

Headlines telling Frogs to hop off are crude modern echoes of Shakespeare's continual sarcasmic use of *monsieur* to imply foppish treachery: "France is a dog-hole, and it no more merits the tread of a man's foot." England finally renounced its claims to French territory only in the year of Shakespeare's birth, but his French is good enough to exploit untranslated French sources and send up French rotten. Some scholars suggest he travelled in the fair and foul land across the Channel — but Shakespeare can make a peg for any theory. The mysterious French insult about modern British visitors on cheapo day-trips to French hypermarkets to stock up with lager, *les Fou-coughs*, presumably just repeats the old French disapproval of unimaginative English bad language, first expressed nine centuries earlier by the French name for an Englishman *un Goddam*, in Old French *un Godon*. Chanteclair's best-seller, *Pour en Finir avec L'Anglais*, is merely the latest expression of 20 centuries of French prejudice about the English as drunkards, hypocrites, filthy slobs, homosexuals and philistines. This old game of pot calling the *bouillotte* black, like children's French and English, is played in both directions. An early English travel writer asserted that the only things that the French had to teach the English were falsehood in fellowship, "perfect slovenry" and esteem the pox as a pimple. These projections of national insecurity often deal with sex. A French letter is *une capote anglaise*. French gout used to be the English for venereal disease. *Pisser à l'anglaise* — to take French leave; and *les anglais ont débarqué* means to have the curse, and is best translated by "rain stopped play".

The unimpeachable Bill to beat back Franglais and defend French's *raison d'être* against linguistic colonisation by English has just been introduced by the French Minister of Culture. On the other hand, seven centuries ago, Robert of Gloucester, the medieval chronicler and dear old English nationalist, was whingeing that the popularity of French was destroying the old English language: "I think there are in all the world no countries/ That don't hold to their own speech but England alone." Twenty racist jokes you did not wish know about the Frogs are countered by the delight of French newspapers at the failure of Dean and fatty, lip-stuck Torville.

Beneath the scab of mutual insults, French and English and their speakers are intimately connected. More than half the vast English vocabulary comes from or through French, which is responsible for such useful etymological triplets as "reason", "ration" and "ratio". French borrowed *bureau* from the Old English *byrig*, the navy came from the Old French *navie*.

French, with its logic and precision, is the Latin of modern languages; English, with its flexibility, is the ancient Greek. The French are amused by the ambiguity of English. The notice at the foot of London Underground escalators: "Dogs must be carried" makes French look around nervously for their obligatory Jack Russell. *Ne Fermez Pas La Porte*, *Le Blount* *Le Fera Pour Vous* (Blount being the trade name of a pneumatic door-closer) has a surreal bossiness that makes the illogical English jump.

French and English are old friends and allies as well as old enemies and rivals. The English limerick and anagram have their counterpart in the French charades and *contrepèteries*, deliberate Spoonerisms, usually unprintable. Example of an English *contrepèterie*: "The landlady oils the old codger's lock." It is true that most best-selling French novels do not export well to the United Kingdom, nor vice versa mutatis mutandis, and Shakespeare goes better in German than French. But the two languages and literatures are old sisters under the skin. What does a Frenchman eat for breakfast? *Huit heures* but. Both old languages have plagiarised, imitated and enriched each other for centuries. The linguistic entente may sometimes seem more poisonous than cordial, but it is *entendu*.

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## People who are animals

The single-issue fanatics who pursue the cause of animal liberation have maimed again in pursuit of their crazy ideal

I say, I say! Whoopie! And of course Hurrah! Then again, Splendid. Brilliant, and Three Cheers! Not to forget Tremendous, Colossal and Wonderful!

Let me get my breath back, and I'll go on — for instance, we haven't yet got Magnificent, Incomparable and Nonpareil! (And what about Joy?)

By now you must realise that all this happiness portends something more significant than mere happiness. (I say! we forgot Happiness itself — we'll be a laughing-stock! Never mind, it will all be taken in good part, considering what a day we'll have had!)

Ah, yes, what it's all about? The riotous enjoyment above came from members of one or more of the organisations whose followers do not mind if they injure — and I wouldn't be surprised, kill — in the faith they have pledged and the actions they carry out. Their indifference to injury comes in this instance from the wounds of a three-year-old child, who was hurt by a parcel bomb sent to her father; the father and the child sustained the same injuries — cuts and burns to the eyes, neck and hands. And the cheers, back-slapping, riotous laughter and the like which we hear marks the success of the merry plan — the bomb had been delivered, and had gone off. Again, I wouldn't put it past the perpetrators to feel that it would have been much better if the child had been blinded and the father permanently disabled, but you can't be sure in this business, and anyway there's always a next time.

Now for the people who did it. Many of those people pretend, but some actually believe, that they are not in the business of injuring human beings at random but are doing so purposefully, choosing their victims on specific lines. These lines, however, are very peculiar indeed: death is threatened, for instance, to people in certain trades or professions, or people who eat certain foods, or who wear certain kinds of apparel.

What, then, is the mystery, and how does it make sense? It is this. These people, most of them mendaciously as I said, direct their savage and often bloody activities to those who transgress the mad rules laid down by the mad activities. Under the guise of animal-lovers, these people proclaim that animals may not be killed for food, nor for attire, nor for any other purpose. But human beings, they argue, have no such protection; they may be injured in the course of ensuring that no animal may be used by any human being for any

purpose, whether for display, as in a zoo, or for utility, as in clothing, or for a table, as in eating.

These attitudes, false or true (very few of the people in this horrible madness could distinguish one from the other), have confused enough people to profess that human beings are less important than animals, and not only less important, but without rights, so that injuring them, even seriously, should not carry any penalty.

They know, of course, that at present such action does carry a penalty, and a very severe one, too, but until the laws governing murder or deliberate injury for using any animal for one or more of those purposes listed above are repealed or fallen into desuetude (and these would-be homicides certainly believe that this will happen, probably quite soon), they carry out their actions clandestinely, with a very considerable record of success.

I have written repeatedly about the figure dubbed the Single-Issue Fanatic. The character is very easily distinguished, not least because he for she — and the female SIF is often substantially worse than the male) literally cannot talk about anything other than the subject that holds the SIF in thrall. It is not true that all SIFs are violent, or potentially so; indeed there are many gentle, bewildered figures who would harm neither human being nor animal, but will talk of one subject only.

But it is time to stop talking theory and start examining reality. This is what the SIFs and their antics have led to:

A nationwide police hunt was launched yesterday for animal rights firebombers who struck at Boots stores in Cornwall... A bomb in Heston and a box device in Penzance were destroyed in controlled explosions yesterday. On Tuesday a bomb exploded at the Bodmin branch of Boots, and another was found by a woman who bought a hair-care product at the Liskeard store.

Why Boots? You may well ask. The

answer is concealed, as are the fire-bombs (which happily did no damage to any human being or animal — better luck next time, chaps), on the Boots shelves which hold preparations used for improving the colouring or other aspects of people's hair. The fact that Boots does not test any cosmetics at all on animals does not come into the argument; these SIFs are out for blood, not accuracy. Whence: Bang.

For that matter,

Twenty protesters broke into the Cheshire Hunt kennels on Christmas Day and attacked the huntsman's wife before being dispersed... she was hit with a martial-arts-type rice flail, kneed in the groin and kicked as she tried to photograph the intruders. They were shouting "Merry Christmas" and "Go and eat your turkey, you murdering bastards".

Pause there for a moment, and contemplate "you murdering bastards". These SIFs have now gone further; some of them believe, or pretend to believe, that not only should animals and birds not be eaten by human beings (they have no objection, of course, if a fox gets into the chicken run and devours a couple of dozen), but that there is no difference between a human being and a turkey. Hence, too, the injured three-year-old and her father. The father is a furrier. Most SIFs are unhappy, unloved misfits, trying to get even with the world; hence the big-boy titles they give themselves — Animal Liberation Front, The Justice Department — and the big-boy language they use. Here is a sample from one of their communications:

...still the unacceptable number of tortured animals keeps rising. The torturers become more extreme, they attack and kill their non-violent opponents too... We won't be asking anyone to stop messing with animals and will make no excuses for our violent intervention... no more torture, no more lies... two animal abusers were injured and given the shock of their pathetic lives when they opened parcel-bombs sent by us.

As I say, it is all a good substitute for the missing biceps. But the activities of these creatures significantly diminishes the help given to animals. The reason is that many people unfortunately do not distinguish the true animal-protectors — admirable bodies such as the RSPCA and Blue Cross — from the organisations of the SIFs: many would-be donors and helpers think that the SIFs and the animal-lovers are one and the same, and the effect of this can be seen in the falling-off of donations and volunteers.

But that does not worry the SIFs in the least. Because, as I have said a dozen times over, the SIFs do not love animals, they hate humans.

This is no elegant paradox, but the unadorned truth. You could see it, for instance, in whichever of the SIF gangs had the idea, some time ago, of breaking down the wires of a compound which held mink — no doubt destined to be fur coats. Mink are singularly fierce beasts, and it was a mercy that no young child was toddling that way.

But the mink toddled off, tearing to pieces other animals and dying in unpleasant ways, not least starvation. And you can see it today, even more clearly, in the language these SIFs use: "torture", "kill", "lies", "violent intervention", "abusers", "targeted". No wonder that "an animal rights parcel bomb which injured four staff at a West Sussex veterinary blood test centre was designed to kill, police said."

Sweet are the uses of misanthropy. But it is not enough to jeer, wearily, at the SIFs, nor even to put them in prison if they are caught. They have to be taught about societies like ours, which are democratic, of course, but something more than democratic.

This something is the consensus, the pattern of silent agreement that means a holistic culture. Within that culture we tolerate almost everything, and rightly so. But when we have said "No", we mean it. This, as it happens, is a country which treats animals better than most other countries, and is better at the policing of animals' treatment.

The flabby, preening, SIFs are in a minority of roughly one in 450,000 (reckoning that they are about 120 in number), and as Kipling said: "We are the people of England, and we have not spoken yet." The SIFs had better shut up, unless they want to open a parcel and be sprayed by an exploding sausage stuffed with mustard.

## A way to break the dam

We should cut the Pergau cash, says Anatole Kaletsky

Which government department has displayed most incompetence and done greatest damage to Britain's national interests in the past decade? Most people have an instant answer: "The Treasury, of course". And that would certainly have been my reaction until I was set thinking by the Government's reflex reaction of timorous appeasement to Malaysia's declaration of commercial war. Then Douglas Hurd's appeared before the Commons foreign affairs committee. I realised I had been unfair on my blundering Treasury friends.

Mr Hurd told the committee that Britain had formally rejected Malaysia's demand for a 20 per cent aid contribution to the cost of a £1 billion arms deal. It was pure coincidence, he added, that on the day this message was delivered to Malaysia, another letter happened to arrive from the British Government to offer Malaysia £200 million of British aid. It was another coincidence that £200 million happened to equal 20 per cent of £1 billion.

What really impressed me was not the Foreign Secretary's bare-faced evasion, but the complacent laziness of his statement. Mr Hurd had not bothered to dream up anything better. He simply stood up and said "black is white". Was this the best alibi that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with its armies of Oxbridge firsts, could dream up?

Complacency and incompetence at the Foreign Office can explain many of the disasters of modern Britain: from ERM entry, Maastricht and the "Rome ambush", which led to the overthrow of Margaret Thatcher, to the war in the Falklands, the re-arming of Iraq and the failure to introduce democracy in Hong Kong. Beside these catastrophes the row with Malaysia is a storm in a teacup. But in one sense it symbolises the damage the Foreign Office has been doing for years.

It all comes down to Mr Hurd's famous dictum that Britain is "punching above its weight" on the international stage. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. Britain is by any objective standards one of the five or six strongest, richest and most important nations on earth. Yet Britain constantly appears minor enemies, accepts damaging compromises and abandons national interests without a fight in the international institutions it runs. The Foreign Office, led by Mr Hurd, has become the chief agency for belittling, demoralising and defeating Britain — nothing could demonstrate this more clearly than the Malaysian imbroglio.

Malaysia is a tiny and insignificant country. Its population of 14 million is one quarter of Britain's, while its gross domestic product of about £35 billion is one-twentieth. Although its economy is growing it is not an important market for British products, nor a significant source of British jobs.

On the contrary, because Malaysia's exports to Britain exceed our exports to Malaysia by 45 per cent — and because products made with cheap Malaysian labour are far more labour-intensive than those we sell to them — Britain's trade with Malaysia results in a large net loss of jobs. This calculation does not argue against trading with Malaysia or any other poor country, since British consumers benefit from access to Malaysia's cheaply-made goods. It does refute the absurd claims that "thousands of jobs are endangered".

In fact, if jobs and exports were endangered anywhere by the prospect of a trade war it would be in Malaysia, not Britain. Even a few small measures from Britain would be enough to inflict memorable punishment on Mahair — if only the voices of appeasement at the Foreign Office would, for once, shut up.

What makes Malaysia particularly vulnerable to foreign pressure, is not just its tiny size. Its stock market is one of the world's most overvalued. Its financial system is threatened by the enormous losses of its central bank from a disastrous — and possibly corrupt — attempt to speculate in currencies, emulating George Soros. Most importantly, Malaysia is extraordinarily dependent on foreign investment — no less than 57 per cent of manufacturing investment is undertaken by foreigners, mostly Japanese, and largely oriented towards exports. By investing in Malaysia, Japanese companies not only want to lower their costs, but also overcome potential threats of anti-Japanese protectionism in America and Europe. The merest whiff of trade sanctions against Malaysia would send the Japanese funds scurrying across the border to Indonesia, China or Vietnam.

But let us return from the realm of fantasy to the world of realpolitik. The Foreign Office appeasers would never allow the Government even to threaten Malaysia with trade sanctions. I do, however, have another more realistic suggestion. Since aid for the Pergau Dam project has caused all the problems and appears to have been illegal to boot, why not at least stop that in retaliation against the Malaysian trade ban? Of the £230 million pledged by the British Government for Pergau, only £24 million has been spent so far. The dam has not even been started — and Malaysia has reneged on the arms purchases the British aid was supposed to procure. By stopping the rest of this aid, the Government could save British taxpayers £200 million, end the Pergau scandal and protect the Malaysian forests. The Foreign Office dunces would not like it. But at least the Treasury blunderers would approve.

## Entente not so cordial

PESSIMISTS predict blood on the rugged pitch tomorrow, and not only at Parc des Princes where Will Carling's team will try to restore some credibility against France. For just before England's national side takes to the field, a team of British Parliamentarians will tackle representatives from the French Assembly in Paris. And the auguries bode ill.

Most fixtures played by our MPs and peers against their Continental friends are a model of goodwill. But the French match is the exception. Until three years ago, the assembly refused, apparently on grounds of foul play, to agree to a regular fixture. And, since then, the games have been "very dirty", confesses the Conservative MP, Phillip Oppenheim: "We won in 1991. It was a draw in 1992, but the French beat us in 1993 when it was something of a bloodbath."

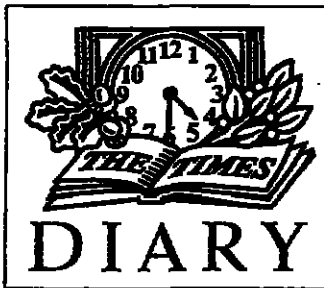
Oppenheim held out great hopes of improving Anglo-French relations this year by sending invitations four months ago to the assembly to fix a game in Paris before England play France. Since he had not received a reply by the end of last week he told his players

it was off. "Now they've written back, saying they expect us on Saturday," reports Oppenheim, who has cobbled together a few stalwarts. "But we need to get a few other players. Anybody who fancies a game should contact me in the Commons," begs the MP. The pitch, north east of Paris, lies next to a cemetery.

### Prince smoked out

THE PRINCE of Wales has been dragged somewhat involuntarily into National No Smoking Day next week with the publication of a book by the country's best known campaigner against smoking, Allen Carr. Extraordinarily, Carr has called his work *A Letter To Prince Charles*. Or Allen Carr's *The Only Way to Stop Smoking* and embellished its cover with a cigarette and plume of smoke in the shape of the Prince's crest.

"In November last year I wrote to the Prince begging his help to assist me in avoiding the premature deaths of 2,000 UK citizens every week," says Carr. "To date I have received no reply to my letter. So I'm going public." Buckingham Palace is mystified: "To our know-



ledge, the Prince was never a smoker."

● Torville & Dean's interpretation of Let's Face the Music and Dance failed to secure them gold in the Winter Olympics but at least it earned them a small place in history. The couple have the dubious pleasure of joining the bearded Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams and Kate Moss, wulf model, in the latest edition of International Who's Who, which is about to go to press.

### Patten to follow

SPORTS Minister Iain Sproat may not be flavour of the month with John Patten at the Department for Education for insisting that schoolchildren should play more sport. But one pupil —

Rachael Moss, aged eight, of Dunscar, near Bolton — is, quite literally, calling his bluff. Rachael wrote to him expressing delight that he did not want children to be fat and unfit. Please send a picture to put up on the school noticeboard, she begs. PS: "A photograph of yourself in your swimming trunks to show us your fine condition would be best."

### Tank engine

YESTERDAY'S unveiling by the fast-slimming tenor Luciano Pavarotti of an eponymous Channel Tunnel locomotive will be by no means the last of Le Shuttle's operatic sensations.

A host of warbling stars are lining up for future train-naming ceremonies including, one hears, Montserrat Caballé, Plácido Domingo and José Carreras. "We are choosing opera singers because they are internationally renowned for quality and excellence," explains a spokesman for Le Shuttle, who insists that no money has changed hands.

Murray Hughes, editor of the *Railway Gazette International*, is unimpressed. "Locos are named and renamed after all sorts of things all the time." Indeed, a train engine was named after *The Times* to mark the newspaper's bicente-

nary in 1985. Sadly, it crashed soon afterwards.

### Like father...

MANY a dynasty of acting talents has flourished in the Royal Shakespeare Company, but have father and son ever before performed two lead roles simultaneously? This summer one of the RSC's most accomplished hands, Robert Stephens (pictured below), will take the lead in *King Lear* at the Barbican Theatre, London, while his 24-year-old son Toby appears as Coriolanus at Stratford.

Stephens senior was concerned that he would not be able to see his son, given the clash, but now he has resolved the issue. "I shall be



re-rehearsing *King Lear* but I can see the Saturday performance. I asked Toby if he would mind and fortunately he said "No, not at all."

● Gamely sluicing back the white wine yesterday at the Princess of Wales's expense was Clive James. As headlines abounded about leaked letters from her brother, the portly television presenter was spotted lunching with the Princess at Kensington Place, one of her favoured haunts. He seemed uninhibited by her decisions to stick to mineral water, pick up the tab or leave by the back door.

### Flight of fancy

THE PRODUCERS of the BBC television travel show *Wish You Were Here* rather wish George Best had been in Florida recently. They had booked him on to a flight to the Sunshine State for a three-week "working holiday" during which he would report on the World Cup for an edition of the programme.

Best failed to arrive at the airport on two consecutive days, leaving Judith Chalmers to step in at the last minute for the programme to be broadcast this month. "We don't know why he didn't turn up," said a member of the production team.





## HEIRS APPARENT

Senior Tories are once more manoeuvring behind Major's back

Rarely can members of a Cabinet have been so brazenly determined to promote themselves at the expense of their colleagues. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, deplores excessive pay rises for businessmen, painting himself with a populist tinge that neatly distinguishes him from a Prime Minister who has dismissed such pay rises as not a matter for Government. Michael Heseltine portrays himself as the unswerving man of integrity who was not prepared to be bullied into signing unconditionally the very PII certificates that the aforementioned Chancellor dispatched without qualification. In a sideswipe he virtually destroys the reputation of Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, and the Prime Minister is obliged to distance himself from Mr Heseltine's criticisms at Question Time.

All this manoeuvring for position is the mark of a Government with a soft centre. Politicians are as sharp as dogs at smelling vulnerability, and the whiff of it is still in the air. Today's MORI poll for *The Times* gives John Major and his Government ratings that are substantially worse than Margaret Thatcher was suffering just before she was deposed in 1990. Only 11 per cent of people think that he is a capable leader, down from 52 per cent in March 1992. The same tiny proportion is satisfied with the way his Government is running the country, while 81 per cent are dissatisfied. The party remains becalmed at just 28 per cent in the polls, 19 points behind Labour. Only its most stalwart supporters are standing by it.

But still Mr Major's leadership may not be challenged. Although the contenders are clearly training themselves for peak political fitness come July or November, they may find that the race is never run. The next general election is much further away than it was in 1990. Increasing numbers of rightwingers are resigning themselves to Mr Major as the best Prime Minister they have. They are no fonder of him than they ever were, but they dislike Mr Clarke even

more. And there is little point putting Michael Portillo up for a contest that he has no chance of winning. There are those on the right who marginally prefer Mr Heseltine; but that is not because he voted against any lowering of the age of homosexual consent in a blatant attempt to woo them. More likely it is because he is older and wiser than his rival, and might sooner return power to the right.

The interests of most on the right suggest that they should stop causing trouble for the Prime Minister. But the virus of factionalism has so deeply infected them that they may find it hard to refrain. The imminence of the European elections allows some of them to wrap disloyalty in the cloak of a higher cause. The future of parliamentary sovereignty is more important than the unity of the Conservative Party, they say. The volume of that dissent is bound to rise as June approaches.

Such public argument is likely to contribute to an even poorer showing for the Conservatives at these elections than a united party could have achieved. The Tories will be attacked on their domestic policies; they will be unable to counter-attack with a more sensible European stance than the Opposition because the party and its candidates cannot agree among themselves on what that stance should be.

The most likely person to gain from disaster is still the Chancellor. By the end of the summer the broad swath of the centre and left at Westminster may be speculating in earnest about whether Mr Clarke could do a better job than Mr Major of saving their seats at the next election. Unlike the right, they would have few qualms about his political views; and unless Mr Clarke is seriously embarrassed by Lord Justice Scott, he is likely to remain more popular with the left than Mr Heseltine. It is one of the curiosities of current debate that, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer does move along Downing Street, he will probably have the right wing to thank for his job.

## IN RABIN'S COURT

Israel cannot duck the settler question

When Baruch Goldstein murdered Palestinians at prayer in Hebron, he also gravely wounded the peace process between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). After months of tiny movements the parties were on the brink of a breakthrough, a point that will not have been lost on extremists. But the PLO has now broken off talks with Israel. The Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, who has staked his future on the success of the peace accord, is in trouble.

Mr Rabin can, however, rescue himself. And in doing so, he could rescue the accord. The PLO has set out three preconditions for the resumption of talks: the dismantling of militant settlements in Hebron, an international protection force in the occupied territories, and the disarming of all settlers. These demands are not just rhetorical; they grow out of insecurity, reasonably felt, in the aftermath of the massacre. In according to them, Mr Rabin would pay a political price. But in failing to address Palestinian fears — for which the demands are only a vehicle — he will pay a price that is heavier still.

The Israeli government has responded feebly so far. It has rounded up no more than a handful of extremists, and has yet to proscribe Kach, the violently racist party to which Goldstein belonged. The decision to release several hundred Palestinian prisoners smacks of palliative: there are more than 10,000 still incarcerated. And the timing of their release — their reincorporation into an inflamed society can hardly be expected to soothe tensions — is more likely to highlight the fact that so many have been

imprisoned for so long. But Mr Rabin can still save the peace accord.

Although he cannot be expected to accede to demands for an international protection force, he must do everything he can to ensure that the Israeli army performs its duties satisfactorily. As long as these extend to protecting the lives of all civilians, whether Jew or Arab, there should be no need for international intervention. The Hebron massacre, however, provides evidence that the protection of the army does not extend to all. Goldstein was not challenged by soldiers present when he entered the mosque with his machine-gun and five clips of ammunition. And their intervention was reported to have been unconscionably slow. Mr Rabin must address urgently the issue these facts raise.

Wedded to this issue is the question of the disarmament of settlers: a more effective discharge of its duties by the army should mean that settlers do not need to carry weapons when they leave their settlements. And Mr Rabin would be wise not to rule out general disarmament in a dogmatic manner. If treated as a sacred cow, the settlers' right to bear arms could prove an even more dangerous obstacle to peace in the future.

The PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, has the peace process as his only refuge. A resumption of talks is as important to him as it is to Mr Rabin. But he cannot resume talks without genuine assurances on security for Palestinians. Mr Rabin should understand that. The future of the peace process, and much more, rests on this understanding.

## THE RIGHT AID

Ministers must draw the right lessons from Pergau

The Pergau dam is a monstrous exception to the generally tall, targeted and well-monitored British overseas aid programme. It is now all the clearer why Baroness Chalker, the overseas development minister, was so vigorously opposed to it. She knew that it ran against all the policies she has promoted for the past four years: that aid should steer away from grandiose infrastructure projects and concentrate instead on small, pump-priming operations and training. She was forthright in telling the foreign affairs committee yesterday that she considered Pergau a bad buy.

British aid is a significant factor in Third World development. Britain is the sixth largest donor, and of its bilateral aid, some 80 per cent is spent in the world's poorest countries. For several years Britain has linked its aid to good government, and has been commendably firm in cutting off funds from regimes that do not observe minimal democratic and human rights — Sudan, Kenya and Malawi are among those aggrieved recipients who have been unable to use traditional ties to prevent cuts.

Britain has also insisted on rigorous inspection to cut waste. From the beginning of this year, the Overseas Development Administration is demanding regular progress reports to ensure that aid projects are in line with guidelines laid down by Lady Chalker last autumn. These include such sensible notions that British aid should help a country to increase its productive capacity and carry out policies to reduce poverty, that aid should promote health,

education and family planning, promote the social and political status of women and help countries tackle environmental problems.

Nevertheless, it is almost impossible for a donor country to ensure that the money it hands over goes directly to improve veterinary services or teach nomads in sub-Saharan Africa how to develop water-saving agricultural techniques. All too often money is siphoned off by corrupt officials. And the actual results of well-intentioned projects are not always properly monitored. New techniques to grow vegetables on land enriched by sewage may prove spectacularly successful, but what if they drive other farmers out of business? Aid must be durable, sustaining and supportive. Forethought is as important as after-care.

For this reason, the present increase of multilateral aid at the expense of bilateral aid is wrong. The aim was to rid aid of political strings or linkage to trade. But handing over money to distant bureaucracies in Brussels or New York is the surest way to squander it: administrative expenses rise, accountability falls and the vital link between donor and recipient is lost. Poor countries regard UN help as little more than a budgetary adjunct; rich countries resent ingratuity and cut back their overall generosity. Cuts in real terms over the next four years mean that Britain will soon spend only 0.26 per cent of its GNP on aid — the lowest proportion for many years. Bilateral aid at least maintains a tradition of thrift and value for money, even at the cost of some monumental blunders, such as Pergau.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Links with Malaysia under scrutiny

From the Editor of The Sunday Times

Sir, The Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim, is reported today as saying that his country's ban on British companies bidding for public-sector contracts will not be lifted until *The Sunday Times* apologises for alleging that Malaysia's Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamed, took a bribe. The *Sunday Times*, however, cannot apologise for something it has not done: but perhaps I can clarify the issue, to everybody's benefit.

The thrust of our story, published on February 20 under the headline "Wimpy offered contract bribes to Malaysian prime minister", was that the British construction company had been prepared, through a middle man, to negotiate what are euphemistically known as "special payments" to Malaysian politicians, in return for a £615 million contract. The company had been led to believe by that middle man that Dr Mahathir would be one of the beneficiaries. This has not been refuted by Wimpy.

At no stage, however, did *The Sunday Times* claim that Dr Mahathir had sought such a bribe or been paid one. Indeed, the story made clear that, in the end, no money changed hands.

*The Sunday Times* has been investigating various deals with Malaysia because of what they tell us about British links between aid and arms. We have no vendetta against Malaysia or its Prime Minister. But it is perfectly proper that *The Sunday Times* and other British newspapers should investigate whether a quarter of a billion pounds of British taxpayers' money used to build a Malaysian dam was really deployed to sweeten a £1 billion arms deal for Britain. That goes to the heart of the proper accountability of British public funds, and newspapers should not desert from investigating it.

I regret, however, if subsequent misreporting of a *Sunday Times* story has led the Malaysian Prime Minister to believe he had been accused by us of a charge we did not make. In the light of this clarification, I hope he will conclude that there are no grounds for a ban on British companies doing business with his government.

To encourage this conclusion I am copying this letter to the Malaysian High Commissioner in London for immediate dispatch to his government in Kuala Lumpur.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDREW F. NEIL  
Editor, *The Sunday Times*,  
1 Pennington Street, E1  
March 3.

From Mr James Lochhead

Sir, Your editorial of February 26, "The Pergau curse", refers to Dr Mahathir's actions as "petulant and short-sighted". This is simply not the case. There is a very clear logic which Mahathir has employed before, whenever he anticipates that particularly his Malay supporters/voters will be exposed to information or comment that might undermine their confidence in his government. This is especially true now, when a general election seems imminent.

### Burton 'Hamlet' film

From Mr Clyde Jeavons

Sir, The film of Richard Burton's 1964 Broadway stage performance of *Hamlet* ("Widow finds Burton's lost Hamlet film", February 25) has been accessible in the British Film Institute's National Film and Television Archive for 22 years. Richard Burton himself donated two copies of the film to us in 1972.

Some years later, after his death, Sally Burton gave us the print referred to in your news item. More than that, the film has been shown numerous times while it has been in our care at the National Film Theatre in London (most recently on February 6), four times in cinemas in Wales, and even in Lisbon.

It has been studied by researchers and film and theatre students at the archive, and extracts have been used several times on television.

We have long recognised the film as an important and invaluable record of a great actor in one of his great theatre performances, and are very happy that it is now to receive a commercial cinema release.

Yours faithfully,  
CLYDE JEAVONS  
(Curator, National Film and Television Archive,  
British Film Institute,  
21 Stephen Street, W1,  
February 28.

### Marking millennium

From Mr Edward Wild

Sir, I, too, hope that the beginning of the next millennium will be anticipated as fittingly as the millennium past should be commemorated (letters, February 26). However, I am concerned lest the celebrations be biased towards London and the South of England.

Would not these celebrations be an appropriate opportunity to encourage overseas visitors to cast their nets wider than the London-Bath-Oxford trail? Surely the North is worthy of rather more than a sports stadium (report, February 19)?

Leeds in particular could become a new home for some of our national treasures and "this great city" (as Queen Victoria described it), with its

Under Mahathir's leadership, Malaysia has been transformed economically. However, the very tight and complex interweaving of Malaysian business and politics, with Mahathir's own party, Umno (Baru), directly involved in a range of companies and contracts, has resulted in a number of financial scandals. These have hitherto been relatively unfamiliar to the public because of the ruling coalition's control of the media and parliament. Now, more by accident than design, some of them may be uncovered and aired internationally.

Perhaps the largest skeleton in Mahathir's closet is a banking scandal from the early 1980s, where 2.6 billion Malaysian dollars were lost and a Malaysian auditor murdered. There is a host of other scandals, 76 of which were listed in the November issue of *Aliran* magazine.

It is thus entirely logical for Mahathir to create a siege mentality. It is also ironic that his actions stem from British enquiries into how our Government has misled its people, abused taxpayers' money, withheld documents from public scrutiny, lied to Parliament, and benefited from untendered contracts. These facts should temper some of the colonial and deeply patronising comments suddenly being hurled in the direction of Malaysia.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES LOCHHEAD,  
European Information Centre  
on Malaysia and Singapore,  
84 Long Lane, SE1,  
February 28.

From Mr Peter Prescott, QC

Sir, Malaysia exports goods to Britain to a far greater value than it buys from us. In the past, countries in that position never started trade wars. The reason is obvious — they could not rule out the possibility of retaliation.

However, Malaysia can rule out that possibility. This is because Britain is part of the European Community and is not allowed to adopt an independent trade policy. We could not implement retaliatory measures even if we wanted to, for it would be contrary to Community law, which is supreme. In theory, we could take our complaint to the European Union, as you suggest in your editorial of February 26. In practice, we all know they are not going to do anything about it, for reasons that are too notorious to require description.

In short, Malaysia is now an independent state, but Britain is no longer so. The consequences of this interesting role reversal are plain for all to see. The Malaysian government is free quite grossly to interfere in our internal affairs — by telling us we must not put up our student fees, or have free newspapers, or anything else if they like it. We can suffer in silence, or comply.

Some of us hope and believe that one day we shall recover our independence. Until then, there is nothing else we can do about it.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER PRESCOTT,  
8 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2,  
February 26.

### Pride in garden

From Mr John Hicks

Sir, It was good to read today about the Hillsborough walled garden in Sheffield, which was one of the winners of your Community Enterprise Scheme Awards. Your article rightly refers to the voluntary help given by local residents, but I would like to draw attention to the fact that alongside the enthusiastic hard work of other volunteers were a number of offenders working under community service orders. They contributed over 10,000 hours clearing and preparing the site, cleaning and stacking 30,000 bricks and laying 500 flagstones.

Whilst offenders worked on this project as part of a court order, their commitment to the project, their sense of fulfilment in seeing the garden take shape, and their pride with others at winning your award have all helped to enhance their sense of belonging to a local community.

This is a conspicuous example of the positive contribution offenders on community service orders make to the life of their communities every day across the country.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN HICKS  
(Chief Probation Officer),  
South Yorkshire Probation Service,  
11a Arundel Gate,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,  
March 1.

### Missing thrushes

From Mr Peter Underwood

Sir, I have through research come to the conclusion that the reduction in numbers of our song thrushes has come about by the indiscriminate use of slug pellets.

The thrush's diet in the summer consists mainly of slugs and snails. If these have consumed the pellet poison and the thrushes eat them, they in turn suffer the consequences.

Birds are our original and best pest control. I appeal to all gardeners to refrain from the over-use of slug pellets this coming summer.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER UNDERWOOD,  
7 Brooke Drive, Hornsea,  
East Yorkshire,  
March 1.

From Miss Elizabeth Tollinton

Sir, Bevis Hillier (letter, February 26) is right: the country would be horribly disappointed if there is no Millennium Festival; and posterity will wonder what we were thinking of, to

### Civil Service and slack government

From Mr John Horam, MP for Orpington (Conservative)

Sir, Lord Bancroft and Sir John Herbecq (letter, February 25) are worried by the fragmentation of the home Civil Service, as more of its functions are hived off into agencies, and the effects this may have on the efficiency and integrity of the public administration of our country.

They pray in aid the recent report on the proper conduct of public business by the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons (details, January 28).

They are right to be concerned, but their analysis is questionable. For instance, the committee, on which I serve, found even more examples of bad administration in the traditionally run government departments, run by traditionally trained civil servants, than they did in some of the newer government agencies. Moreover, while some disciplinary action was taken in the newer agencies, there was little in the traditional departments.

The problem as I see it is rather different. The quality of government has declined because there is simply too much of it. Politicians must take the major blame for this, but civil servants have acquiesced all too readily.

One major fault is that Whitehall seems to have become addicted to producing endless ill-considered legislation. At the moment, for example, the Home Office has two major Bills going through Parliament. This is one too many. Moreover, one of them, the Police and Magistrates' Courts Bill, which is causing the Home Secretary large problems (latest report, March 2), has all the hallmarks of something dreamed up by the civil servants and designed to give them more power.

Another problem is that the Civil Service is uniquely adept at destroying even good ideas by burying them in red tape and loading them with too

many objectives. A classic case here is the Child Support Agency.

The competence of government is undoubtedly an issue at the moment. Ministers and parliamentarians should face it squarely. But so should the home Civil Service. Blaming fragmentation sounds a bit like an alibi.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN HORAM,  
House of Commons,  
March 2.

From Mr Timothy Hornsby

Sir, Lord Bancroft and Sir John Herbecq are elegantly fighting a lost cause: the Civil Service has already been Balkanised. No amount of fastidious nostalgia will put Humpty Dumpty together again. The real task is to devise fresh methods of ensuring accountability and high standards in a changed structure. Here there are lessons to be learnt from local government and the Ombudsman.

Yours faithfully,  
T. R. HORNSBY  
(Chief Executive),  
The Royal Borough of  
Kingston upon Thames,  
Guildhall,  
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

From Sir David Serpell

Sir, I was struck by the difference between the Civil Service described by Sir Winston Churchill on page 21 yesterday ("Our great Civil Service", *On This Day* — 1922) and the fragmented Service rightly feared by Lord Bancroft and Sir John Herbecq on page 19. One important question must be which sort of Service will young (and not so young), able and public-spirited individuals aspire to join?

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID SERPELL,  
25 Crossparks, Dartmouth, Devon.  
February 26.

Hebron massacre

From the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and others

Sir, No responsible member of society could do anything but condemn unreservedly the appalling destruction of life in Hebron last Friday (letters, March 1, 2).

Especially reprehensible was the attack on those at prayer in a house of worship. The right to pray communally, without fear of attack and in conditions of security, is fundamental. Mutual respect between all the faiths is crucial and should be upheld in both act and word.

We join together, from the Jewish and Muslim communities in this country, to call for an end to violence anywhere and particularly in a land

sacred to the three monotheistic faiths.

It is our hope that political leaders will redouble their efforts in the Middle East peace process and frustrate the aims of those seeking to spread violence and hatred.

Yours faithfully,  
ISRAEL FINESTEIN,  
President,  
Board of Deputies of British Jews,  
AUBREY ROSE  
(Senior Vice-President,  
Board of Deputies of British Jews),  
Z. U. KHAN  
(Chairman, Confederation of Asian  
Organisations in the UK and Europe),  
A. J. SAJJID  
(Imam, Brighton Islamic Centre),  
c/o Woburn House,  
Upper Woburn Place, WC1.

Monks' dilemma

From Sister M. Josefa

Sir, In Sir Steven Runciman's letter of March 3 he states that the monks of Mount Athos "are answerable... in temporal matters to the Greek state", which in turn must surely be answerable to the EC.

Can this mean that their traditional exclusion of females, even down to cows, sows and hens, no longer applies? If their historic misogyny is lawful under rules applying to the whole European Community, does this set a legal precedent in terms of sexual equality?

How does this impact on the common agricultural policy? Who gets their milk quotas?

Yours sincerely,  
M. JOSEFA,  
13 Whalley Grove,  
Leigh, Lancashire,  
March 3.

### Tube challenges

From Mr Harold Ginsberg

Sir, Mr Mogford's tale from his youth (letter, February 25) of attempting to alight at every Underground station in wartime London in the early Forties begs the question: "Was their journey really necessary?"

Yours faithfully,  
H. GINSBERG,  
8 Larnach Close,  
Uxbridge, East Sussex,  
February 25.

### The law and security

From His Honour Judge Bradbury

Sir, Judges at Snaresbrook Crown Court in east London are frequently to be found at the end of the working day standing on the platform of the local station near to other participants in their trials (your report on judges' security, February 18; letter, February 22).

One day last year I ran for a train. As it pulled away I found myself a few seats away from four members of the jury from my court. Opposite them sat the defendant and three members of his family.

Not a word was spoken. Three stations later the defendant got out. Next day the jury convicted him and he was sent to prison.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY BRADBURY,  
Southend County Court,  
Tyers Avenue,  
Southend-on-Sea, Essex,  
February 22.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.







## OBITUARIES

## PROFESSOR D. M. MacKINNON

D. M. MacKinnon, Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity, Cambridge University, 1960-78, died on March 2 aged 80. He was born on August 27, 1913.



DONALD MacKINNON was a representative of that now distressingly rare species — the eccentric don. His eccentricities, however, were those of a tireless learner and a dedicated teacher, not of an indolent dilettante. As a young don at Oxford he used to give tutorials while lying supine under his table or even in his bath. His philosophical and theological colleagues may have regarded him as an oddity and have found him trying to work with, but he had a profound and beneficent influence on successive generations of students.

This influence was exercised less through his published work, which tended to be too laboured, than through his lectures and in personal encounters during which he would often wield a razor blade, literally as well as metaphorically, in a manner calculated to alarm any who were not familiar with the innocence of MacKinnon's intentions.

The manifest, and indeed agonised, honesty of his searching mind, which was reflected in his face and gestures and in his Johnsonian appearance, could not fail to impress those who heard and met him, even if his utterances sometimes seemed to be incoherent and on occasion just silly. But it was always waiting for his flashes of quite exceptional insight. And when need or occasion required, he could be admirably simple and direct, as in the elementary courses in philosophy which he conducted during the war for Royal Navy and RAF cadets.

Donald MacKinnon MacKinnon, the son of a Scottish lawyer, was born at Oban. He was a scholar of Winchester and then of New College, Oxford, and his first academic appointment was that of assistant to Professor A. E. Taylor at Edinburgh. He was fellow and tutor in philosophy at Keble College, Oxford, from 1937 to 1947. Here he became renowned not only for his eccentricities but also for his social and political radicalism and, not least, for the personal interest that he took in his pupils, to whom he would devote any amount of time.

His marriage in 1939 to Lois, daughter of the Rev Oliver Dryer, was extremely happy and modified some of

her angularities, notably his general untidiness. Although his already predominant concern with the philosophy of religion was evidenced by his appointment to the Wilde lectureship at Oxford in 1945, he was not yet to become a professional theologian, since his next post was that of Professor of Moral Philosophy at Aberdeen from 1947 to 1960.

There, in addition to his teaching, he showed surprising gifts as an administrator — surprising, because when present at meetings of which he was not chairman it was ever his habit to employ the time in writing long and illegible letters with occasional and lively, though not always relevant, interventions into the business at hand.

His election to the Norris-Hulse chair of divinity at Cambridge in 1960, where he also became a fellow of Corpus Christi College, gave him the opportunity, for which he was well prepared, of seeking to bridge the gap between modern philosophy and modern theology. He aptly entitled his inaugural lecture *Borderlands of Theology*. Though an Anglo-Catholic by tradition and an ardent Scottish Episcopalian, he was ecumenical in his sympathies and so, for example, took Karl Barth's dialectical theology very seriously.

He was an omnivorous reader, and everything was grist to his mill from the most abstruse speculations to the latest film and commonplace

appointment was that of assistant to Professor A. E. Taylor at Edinburgh. He was fellow and tutor in philosophy at Keble College, Oxford, from 1937 to 1947. Here he became renowned not only for his eccentricities but also for his social and political radicalism and, not least, for the personal interest that he took in his pupils, to whom he would devote any amount of time.

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## LIEUT-COL DESMOND CABLE

## LIEUT-COL DESMOND CABLE

Lieutenant-Colonel Desmond Cable, OBE (milit), MC, former managing director of the Richard Maurice fund-raising organisation, died on February 12 aged 77. He was born on October 5, 1916.

"REMEMBER Datta Khell" yelled the 25-year-old Lieutenant-Colonel Desmond Cable — and, like one man, the Pathan irregulars he commanded swarmed with murderous intent up the steep hill towards the enemy.

Datta Khell was the embattled fort on India's North-West Frontier where, several months earlier in 1941, the piratical tribesmen serving the Fakir of Ipi had poured boiling water on two wounded Tuchi Scouts prisoners. Even in the lawless corner of the Empire, this was held to be outside the rules of warfare. The grisly episode produced, however, a battle cry which inspired the British-led Scouts — whose ranks were largely filled with Pathan poacher-turned-gamekeepers.

"I never saw such Josh (verve) in all my life," commented the gratified Cable that night on reporting on a successful operation. His Scouts had recaptured a hijacked contractor's lorry, killing six of the Fakir's brigands and seizing their gang leader. For the gallantry and leadership he displayed, Desmond Cable received the Military Cross.

Described by Charles Chenevix-Trench in *The Frontier Scouts* as a cross between Beau Geste and Bertie Wooster, the ebullient 6ft 4in Cable had been seconded to the Tuchi Scouts from his own regiment, the 6th Gurkha Rifles.

On the outbreak of the war against Japan, he had hoped to return to the Gurkhas. But shortly after his action to liberate the truck, he went down with a serious attack of polio. He had to struggle to regain his fitness and to persuade the Indian Army to let him return to the Gurkhas — now fighting in Burma.

A determined young man, he eventually succeeded in being transferred to his regi-

ment's 4th Battalion where he served for a time as the second-in-command in Burma. As such he was chiefly responsible for extricating the Gurkhas from Yeshin. They had come under heavy fire from Japanese artillery after crossing the Irrawaddy River and it was Cable who withdrew the battalion safely under cover.

He inherited his military prowess from his father, who died from fever in Mesopotamia while serving with the Indian Army's 7th Lancers in 1918. Desmond James Cable, who was only two when his father died, was educated at Wellington College where he played rugby in the first XV, then at Sandhurst whence he was commissioned into the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. After serving Indian food, perfected and then manufactured his own tinned curry. While customers testified to the excellence of the Curry Pot range of products, the successful marketing of his business was beyond him and he finally retired to Devon.

Cable, an enthusiast for Indian food, perfected and then manufactured his own tinned curry. While customers testified to the excellence of the Curry Pot range of products, the successful marketing of his business was beyond him and he finally retired to Devon. Colleagues believed that Cable, a big man in both senses of the phrase, and a famous raconteur, had the ability to have risen to major-general had he stayed in the Army. Many think in later years he sometimes regretted his precipitate decision to resign.

But another youthful impulse turned out well. While in India he fell in love with the daughter of a brigadier, who strongly opposed her romance with the headstrong young subaltern. Frustrated in his attempts to arrange a meeting, Cable drove through the night to her residence where the brigadier was hosting a dinner party. After throwing gravel up at her window, he attracted the attention of the *quah* who promised to leave his love-letter on her dressing table.

Even the brigadier recognised true love when he saw it and the couple were married in India shortly afterwards. They lived happily together for the next 52 years — until Pamela Cable died three months ago. Desmond Cable, who did not fully recover from the loss, is survived by their two sons.

Cable then volunteered for Korea where he was posted as a Battery Commander with 14 Field Regiment. From there he was transferred to a staff job as Brigade Major RA with the 1st Commonwealth Division and won the military OBE

commission's aim of improving the living standards of the poor. He was friendly and unassuming, and proved an effective chairman. He was knighted in June 1969.

The following month, John Stonehouse, the Postmaster General, announced the composition of the new Board of the Post Office, and Haywood was appointed its member for industrial relations. He accepted this job eagerly, believing, somewhat naively, that his experience at a junior level in the Post Office and his long association with the trade union movement would be helpful.

In fact, the job proved a great disappointment. His period as a member of the board coincided with a protracted and bitter pay dispute. Some people criticised the new members for industrial relations for apparent lack of conviction in pursuing the target of wage restraint. The Union of Postal Workers, on

the other hand, regarded him as a traitor, and voted, at their conference in May 1971, to deprive him of his honorary union membership. This hurt Haywood deeply, and in September 1971 he resigned, ostensibly on health grounds. He nevertheless continued to serve on many advisory committees, panels, and tribunals. One of these was the Home Secretary's advisory panel which assessed the appeals of aliens ordered out of the UK on security or political grounds under the provisions of the 1971 Immigration Act. He served on this panel from 1972 to 1981. He was also, until 1982, a member of a Civil Service tribunal which heard appeals against the refusal of security clearance in the public service.

Haywood was a governor of Guy's Hospital from 1949 to 1972, and chairman of the National Health Service Commission from 1972 to 1975. He had a lifelong interest in sport. He was president of the Association of Kent Cricket Clubs, and president of the Civil Service Cricket and Football Associations. He was chairman and later a vice-president of the Civil Service Sports Council. He was always keen to help and encourage young sportsmen, who responded enthusiastically to his interest in them. It gave him particular pleasure when the Civil Service Rowing Club named one of its boats in his honour.

In 1936 he married Ethel Wheatcroft, who died last year. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

His contents, and to leave after the signature. We have therefore requested a train to be put at our disposal, and we count on signing the treaty today. The most serious aggravation in the demands as compared with those presented on February 21 is the following: "To detach from Russian territory the regions of Ardahan, Kars, and Batumi, on the pretext of the right of peoples to self-determination."

This news came as a surprise, as the morning newspapers had published an official telegram announcing that the Russian delegation had asked for a train on which to return to Petrograd. This telegram was interpreted by the Smolny Institute and by the whole Press as meaning that the peace negotiations had been broken off. It now appears that this telegram had merely been received before the telegram announcing the acceptance of the German conditions. The Revolutionary Socialists of the Left in Petrograd repudiate the treaty, and call upon workmen, soldiers, and peasants to take up arms against the invasion of the capital.

MARCH 3.—A large number of provincial Soviets having expressed disagreement with the German peace conditions, the Central Executive Committee has convened a general congress of Soviets to be held at Moscow on the 12th inst. — *Reuter*

## OLIVE HIRST

Olive Hirst, the first woman to run a London advertising agency, died on February 26 aged 81. She was born on June 20, 1912.

OLIVE HIRST was a trail-blazer for women in advertising. She was the first woman fellow of the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising (IPA), the first woman to be elected to the IPA's Council and the first

woman managing director of a British advertising agency — Sells, established in 1869.

Educated at the Abbey School, Mill Hill, Olive Hirst first went to work at the age of 18, joining the overseas department of Sells in 1931 as secretary to H. G. Wood. Perhaps fortunately for her, he went on to be chairman and managing director of the agency five years later. She served as his right hand in

running both the agency and its major accounts, including Blythmore, Nuffield, Timothy Whites and Eugene. At various times she worked in all the agency's departments, except the studio, and set up its film and screen advertising department from scratch.

During the war, when Sells was appointed the contractor, she was also responsible for raising the revenue of the Post Office by selling advertising space in stamp books. She was both personally and professionally involved in the Catholic Information Centre's advertising.

Olive Hirst joined the board of Sells in January 1950 and, when H. G. Wood died nine months later, she was unanimously voted managing director. An unfortunate by-product was that pressure of business and her new responsibilities prevented her from adding another first for women — the chairmanship of the Publicity Club of London (she had been elected its first woman vice-chairman in 1950). She had served as a council member and secretary to the finance committee since 1946 and chaired its membership committee, 1946-51, during which time more than 900 new members joined. A consolation was the award of the prestigious Layton Trophy to her agency in 1959.

One of her qualities lay in being remarkably generous to other women in advertising — being unstinting with encouragement, practical help, support and time. A distinguished president of the Women's Advertising Club of London (1959-60), she was the driving force behind a WACL project which led to the publication in 1971 of *150 Careers in Advertising*, subtitled *With equal opportunities for men and women*. It would never have come to fruition without the quiet determination, persistence, professionalism and practicality which characterised her working life.

After retirement she began a second career, spending several years with an international oil equipment company. She continued to take great pleasure in her wide circle of friends and what she modestly called "Sunday painting". Unmarried, she leaves two brothers and a sister.

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## HOWARD TEMIN

Howard Temin, an American cancer researcher who shared the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1975, died of lung cancer in Madison, Wisconsin, on February 9 aged 59. He was born in Philadelphia on December 10, 1934.

YEARS of ridicule by the scientific establishment failed to deter Howard Temin from pursuing the discovery of one of the most important elements in modern biotechnology: an enzyme known as "reverse transcriptase". It was an achievement which played a crucial role in identifying the AIDS virus, and has become a vital factor in genetic engineering, but in 1964 when Temin first advanced his theory it was laughed out of court.

He believed that some viruses carried their genetic information in the form of RNA, which was then copied into DNA in infected cells, subverting their genetic machinery. Conventional wisdom had it that this was impossible: that DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) always passed information on the RNA (ribonucleic acid) and never the other way around.

Temin persisted in his experiments for six years, working in a cramped basement laboratory at the University of Wisconsin. He ultimately

found the enzyme that proved his theory in a virus that causes cancer in chickens, while that same year the discovery was made independently by Dr David Baltimore, who was studying cancer in mice. Overnight, Temin was transformed from a laughing-stock to a scientific lion. He shared the Nobel Prize with Baltimore and with his former professor, Dr Renato Dulbecco.

At first it was thought that reverse transcriptase would help to unlock the secrets of human cancer. In fact, its value proved to lie in the study of retroviruses, saving years of research in the discovery of the HIV virus, and in the cloning of genes by the biotechnology industry. It has made possible the production of human insulin, and the drug TPA, a clot-dissolving agent that stops heart attacks in progress.

A fanatical non-smoker, he upbraided members of the audience at his Nobel presentation ceremony for smoking when he was being honoured for his efforts to combat cancer. The outburst was typical of Temin, who was known to terrify both students and colleagues in his abrasive pursuit of perfection. His own death from lung cancer was ironic, though the form of the disease involved, adenocarcinoma, is a type not linked to smoking.

He is survived by his wife, Rayla, and by two daughters.

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## INFOTECH 30-32

Has Sony hit the right note with its new Minidisc?



## ARTS 33-35

Uncovering the footprints of the young Dali



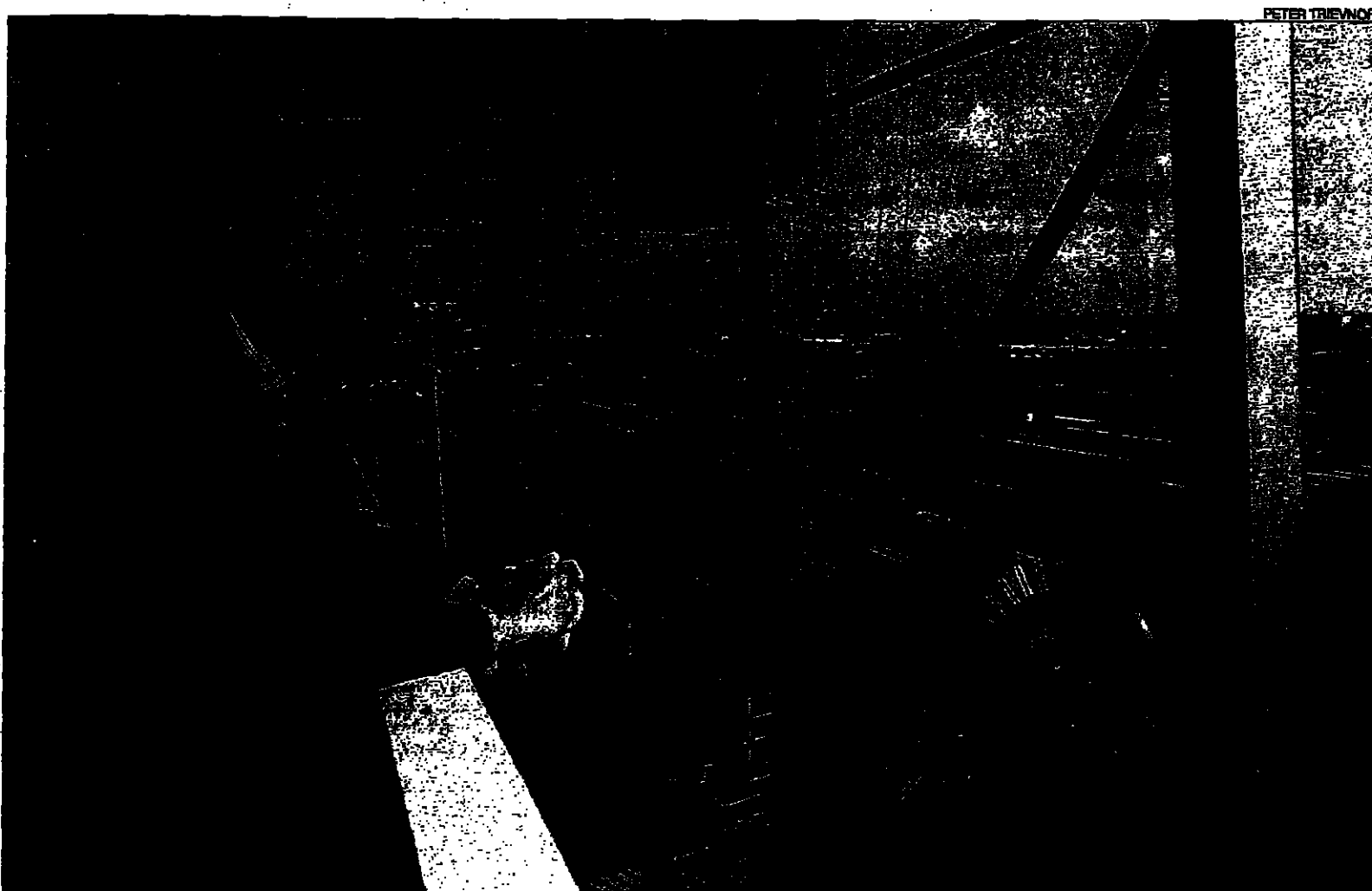
## SPORT 37-44

Seeking to balance demands of court and classroom

HOW ASIAN BUSINESS SEES THE WEST  
Page 27

# THE TIMES

FRIDAY MARCH 4 1994



Sea view: Sir Keith Stuart, the chairman of Associated British Ports gazing out over the container terminal at Southampton. Yesterday, he reported a return to the black for 1993 by the leading port operator from property losses in 1992 (Story, page 25; Tempus, page 27)

## City watchdog plans drastic rise in fines

By Sara McConnell, Personal Finance Correspondent

LIFE companies that put consumers at risk by failing to monitor and control their sales forces face "significantly higher" fines by their regulator, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro).

Kit Jebens, Lautro's chief executive, said: "The lowest level of fines (under the new regime) will be significantly higher than the highest now." A record was set this week when Lautro fined L&G £180,000 and £220,000 costs for "substantial compliance deficiencies". But this should pale into insignificance compared with the fines now to be imposed. Mr Jebens indicated that the lowest would be at least £200,000. However, fines depend on a company's size and its attitude when disciplined, as well as the gravity of the offence.

The first higher fines are expected to be announced in the next four to six weeks. Lautro is taking a hard line

with companies that do not come up to scratch. Mr Jebens said: "All our members have already received in-depth inspection visits and we have issued huge amounts of guidance... There can be little excuse for failures to come up to standard."

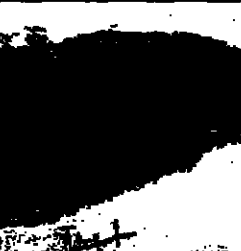
After July, Lautro is expected to merge with the Personal Investment Authority, which will regulate all sales of investments to the public. Mr Jebens is confident that the PIA will be no more lenient than Lautro is at present.

He said, however, that in the long term, imposing higher and higher fines would not always be the answer, because the cost would ultimately be met by policyholders. Instead, Lautro plans to grade life offices on quality of customer care, handling of salespeople, suitability of advice and other positive factors. The reward for a high grade would be reduced attention from regulators.

BUSINESS EDITOR  
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS  
TODAY

TIGER



Dealing with Pacific tigers, the emerging Far East nations such as Malaysia, can prove to be a risky business for the West.  
Page 27

BEASTLY

The Treasury refused to grant the Post Office the commercial freedom that it is seeking.  
Page 23

STALKING



Zeneca, the biosciences group, wants an interest rate cut to underpin patchy recovery.  
Page 25, Tempus, 27

RHINO

Rhino, the computer and video games specialist has raised profits from £154,000 to £2 million.  
Page 25

## Germany rejects rate cut

THE Bundesbank dashed lingering hopes that it would loosen its monetary reins to allay fears in the financial markets that the interest rate screw is about to tighten again before Europe has struggled free from recession (Colin Narbrough writes).

After money supply figures on Wednesday showing the target M3 measure growing at an annualised 20.6 per cent, far above the official 6 per cent target ceiling, the Bundesbank council had little option but to keep its key lending rates unchanged yesterday.

However, Frankfurt analysts said that the decision to hold rates steady did not signal an end to rate cuts, and the bank was likely to continue to cut rates, as and when signals on inflation were right.

Shares and government bonds across Europe had a relatively relaxed day after the volatility seen earlier this week, when alarm in financial derivatives markets about the prospect of interest rates again rising infected the share market.

Stock market, page 26

## Gatt chief attacks US over sanctions

By Colin Narbrough  
WORLD TRADE  
CORRESPONDENT

■ The head of Gatt warned America that it was straining the recent agreement on freer world trade, which took seven years to reach, even before it had taken full effect

AMERICA came under fierce attack from Peter Sutherland, the head of Gatt, the world trade body, after the Clinton administration announced its decision to reinstate Super 301, its toughest unilateral trade weapon, to try to resolve its interminable dispute with Japan.

Talks between America and Japan broke down two weeks ago over Tokyo's refusal to accept numerical import targets. Once the Super 301 trade law is implemented, the US administration will be legally forced to retaliate against offending countries, by imposing restrictions on imports, equivalent to the value of American exports deemed to have been lost as a result of unfair import restrictions.

Mr Sutherland, speaking in New York last night, said the pursuit of managed trade was "misguided and dangerous". He gave warning that the fresh out-

break of bilateral trade tension was putting the Uruguay round agreement on freer world trade to the test even before it had become fully operational.

After successfully concluding the seven-year Uruguay round negotiations in December, Mr Sutherland, a former European competition commissioner, is concerned that Washington's attempt to force Japan to reduce its \$59 billion trade surplus with America could threaten world trade agreement before the 117 governments involved formally commit themselves to the pact at a ministerial meeting in Morocco next month.

Although Mr Sutherland did not name America, he left no doubt in his speech to the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce that his anger was directed at the Clinton

administration. Governments should interfere in the conduct of trade as little as possible, he said, since the potential for misguided decisions was great. He pointed to the economic failure of the former Soviet empire as an example of how managed trade led to uncompetitive industry and imploding living standards.

In an executive decision, which requires no congressional approval, President Clinton reinstated Super 301, an amendment to the 1974 Trade Act, which expired in 1990 and which stipulates the imposition of trade sanctions within 18 months if the administration deems that a foreign country has discriminated against American products.

Critics consider the decision a reversal in US trade policy, after last year's dual free trade victories, when administra-

tion officials signed up to the world trade agreement and Mr Clinton put his presidency at risk by pushing the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico through a reluctant Congress.

Mr Sutherland said: "Managed trade is damaging to the multilateral trading system in several ways, including its potential for escalating trade conflicts by agreements outside the system." Separate agreements outside the Gatt framework could be enforced only by trade sanctions and were often incompatible with Gatt members' obligations. It was difficult to operate quantitative targets for the market share of foreign producers in a way that gave all countries equal opportunity.

"The top priority on the world economic agenda now," he said, "is to complete the various national ratification processes quickly, so that the Uruguay round agreements are implemented from the beginning of 1995."

Thatcher's last edit, page 9

## Ladbroke unveils first fall in payout since 1967

By Martin Waller  
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TWO months after the departure of Cyril Stein, founder and former chairman, Ladbroke Group, the betting, hotels and DIY retail conglomerate, has announced the first annual dividend cut since its Stock Exchange listing in 1967.

The group is chopping the final payment to 1.05p, from 6.23p, so reducing the total by 46 per cent to 11.15p. John Jackson, Ladbroke chairman since the beginning of the year, said the dividend had now been set at a level that was sustainable and provided a basis for future growth.

Increases in dividend payments had "coloured expectations", he said. Shareholders, who included a large number of private individuals, "have become accustomed to an increasing dividend stream". But it was not in the interests of the company to pay dividends that were uncovered by underlying earnings, Mr Jackson added. This year's reduced payment reflects earnings per share of 7.13p. The extent of the reduction exceeded expectations of a cut in the City, and the shares ended 11p cheaper at 190p.

Ladbroke saw operating profits decline from £256 million to £237 million in the year to December 31 after a particularly poor retail perfor-

mance from Texas, the DIY chain. But exceptional costs fell to £55 million (£143 million), and, despite higher interest charges, pre-tax profits were £62 million (£5 million).





The exceptional costs came from Texas, where £20.5 million was written off the value of stock, and a provision against property values of £39.4 million. At Texas, operating profits before exceptional costs collapsed to £7.8 million, from £43.6 million last time, after unexpected second-half losses of £8 million.

The group's hotels operations, which comprise the Hilton International chain outside America, saw a negligible downturn, coming in £1.8

million lower at £117.7 million as higher London occupancy rates were counterbalanced by tough conditions in continental Europe and Japan.

Betting and gaming, which includes betting shops and the Vernons pools business, made a £86.1 million profit (£68 million), while property profits were little changed at £41.4 million (£40.3 million). Ladbroke is slowly selling off the investment property portfolio built up by Mr Stein and an external valuation of that portfolio threw up a reduction of £82.1 million to £583 million, part of this fall creating the exceptional item.

Tempus, page 27

STOCK MARKET		THE POUND		GOLD	
<div>FT-SE 100 3246.5 -1.6</div> 	<div>DOW JONES 3819.92 -11.82</div>  Midday trading figure	 <div>Dm 2.5543 +0.0068</div>	 <div>US \$ 1.4953 +0.0003</div>	<div>\$377.30 per oz</div> BRENT CRUDE  \$13.60 per barrel (Apr)	
				8pm	
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MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 28, SHARE PRICES PAGE 29					

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# C&W offers £480m to tap into Irish telecoms

By Ross TIERMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CABLE and Wireless yesterday confirmed that it has offered the Irish government a solution to one of its thorniest industrial problems: how to make Telecom Eireann, the Irish state phone company, competitive before the liberalisation of European phone services in 1998.

C&W, once the phone company to the British empire and now parent of Mercury in the United Kingdom, stands ready to inject up to £480 million (£480 million) into TE in exchange for a substantial minority stake.

Details are still being discussed, but it is clear that C&W is hoping its cash and expertise will

prove a short-cut to becoming the private sector partner in Ireland's biggest phone operator. Although AT&T of America has also been mentioned, C&W is the front runner.

Selling the idea to the Irish Parliament may prove more difficult than selling TE shares to C&W. The Labour party, the minority partner in Ireland's coalition government, is set against privatisation. However, Ireland's lame-duck phone group may have more to lose if it keeps its independence.

Since 1984, when Michael Smurfit, the packaging magnate, was appointed non-executive chairman, the TE network has been modernised and staff numbers have been cut from 18,000 to 13,500. However, by the time Mr

Smurfit left in 1991, the investment programme had piled up debts of £1.1 billion, against equity of £1.3 billion, while staff numbers are estimated to still be about 3,500 above optimum. The emergence of competition in private networks and international traffic, enabled by European Community competition legislation, has added to the pressure. Although TE made profits of £150 million after interest in the year to April 1993, it lacks the resources to invest and rationalise.

C&W, on the other hand, has cash resources, an expertise in modernising small national phone companies and an international cable network. Since privatisation in 1981, C&W has lifted sales to £3.8 billion a year and reinforced

its national operations in Hong Kong and the Caribbean with stakes in other networks around the world. Involvement with TE would fit neatly with its interest in Sweden, Finland, Latvia, Bulgaria and Minsk, Belorussia.

C&W would say only: "We have put in a proposal to TE and the Irish government for an alliance between the two countries." However, it is understood that C&W is seeking a stake of more than 25 per cent in TE's operations.

Because of political sensitivities, it is expected that any cash injection will be dressed up as the establishment of a joint venture. Discussions, which may be protracted, are sufficiently well advanced that TE has seen fit to inform its staff that a link with C&W is being considered.

## Treasury will not deliver freedom to Post Office

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Treasury said clearly yesterday that the Government will not allow the Post Office the commercial freedom it is seeking to compete with private-sector mail and parcel carriers.

The statement, delivered by Stephen Dorrell, the Financial Secretary, marks the first time that the Treasury has made clear its views in public about the future of the Post Office since the Government announced a review of the service 18 months ago.

Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, is in favour of privatising at least part of the Post Office, probably leaving the counters business in the public sector in order to allay the fears of Conservative MPs.

But Post Office managers believe the Treasury has been blocking their appeals for the service to be given greater freedom from the Government's public sector finances in order to compete in the private sector — and Mr Dorrell yesterday publicly confirmed the Treasury's refusal to do so.

Speaking at a conference organised by the Trades Union Congress on the future of Britain's public services, Mr Dorrell supported the Post Office developing its services.

But he said that if the service was pressing for the Treasury to no longer be interested in its commercial policy, and in particular its use of public capital, "then clearly that is not going to be the position".

He made it clear that the Treasury would continue to control the Post Office's finances. What the Government had to do, he added, was ensure that the service's use of public capital did not place unfair burdens on other taxpayers working in companies with which the Post Office wanted to compete.

He said he was "not in favour of using taxpayers' money to compete with taxpayers in other industries".

The Treasury believes that if the Post Office gained commercial freedom, it would be able to compete with private sector providers without any comparable commercial risk, since the provision of public capital would in effect underwrite any risks that might be taken. Neither would the Treasury lose control of Post Office pay, Mr Dorrell said.

His statement was seen by managers as evidence that the Government is not in favour of the "halfway house" of greater commercial freedom that the Post Office has been proposing for itself.



Michael Heron, chairman of the Post Office, which is seeking to exploit opportunities beyond its state role

## Plane firms in Boeing link

By Our Industrial Correspondent

EUROPE'S leading aircraft manufacturers and Boeing of the United States are to press ahead with feasibility studies for a super-jumbo airliner for the next century.

Japanese and Russian aerospace companies may be invited to join a consortium to build a 500-800 seat aircraft to replace the Boeing 747.

Agreement to continue detailed studies for 18 months was reached at a meeting in

London between officials from Boeing and British Aerospace, Aerospatiale of France, Deutsche Aerospace and CASA of Spain. The European companies, who are partners in the Airbus consortium which is now Boeing's biggest rival, are to involve Airbus engineers directly in the project.

Collaboration between the world's two leading makers of airliners is being encouraged by the enormous costs anticipated in the development of a multi-deck super-plane to replace the world's biggest

people carrier. Some estimates have suggested the cost could reach US\$3 billion.

With demand for the plane estimated at 450 to 500 aircraft by 2010, aerospace companies are keen to participate in the market but fear it could be unprofitable if rivalry develops.

With more than half of the planes expected to see service in the Asia Pacific region, it is expected there will be strong pressure from Japanese companies for a stake in the plane's production. Russian

planemakers, who have considerable technical expertise

and the advantages of a very low cost base with a huge market on their doorstep, may also be involved.

John Hayhurst, Boeing's project director for the study, said no insurmountable technical difficulties had yet been uncovered by research. "We'll continue examining the possibility of forming a new organisation to design, produce and market a very large commercial aircraft," he said.

The prospect of collaboration has increased as Airbus has mounted a growing challenge to Boeing's supremacy.

## Fund managers beaten by index

By Patricia Teahan, Banking Correspondent

PENSION fund managers underperformed the domestic stock market last year because of their light weighting in shares of HSBC Holdings, Midland Bank's parent.

According to a survey by WM Company, which monitors pension fund performance, the UK equity returns of the average pension fund was 27.9 per cent, compared with the FT All Share Index return of 28.4 per cent.

WM measured the investment performance of 1,900 pension funds in the UK with assets of £380 billion, more than 80 per cent of the UK pension fund market.

Last year saw a disinvestment by fund managers from UK equities for the first time in 10 years. There was a net outflow of £1.4 billion, compared with a £2.2 billion net inflow in 1992. Managers achieved an average return of 28.2 per cent. With inflation at 1.9 per cent, said WM, this is a real return of over 26 per cent.

Last year, returns on shares in smaller companies were higher than for larger firms,

with the Small Company index returning 41.7 per cent compared with 25.2 per cent for the FTSE-100.

Overseas, UK fund managers reduced their investments in North America and pulled £1.4 billion from Japan, but invested £300 million in Korea, tripling investment there. They outperformed the FT Actuaries Pacific Ex Japan index with returns of 95.3 per cent compared with the index's 94.4 per cent.

Overall, overseas equities performed best, with fund managers making returns of 39.4 per cent, up from 19.7 per cent. New investment of £2 billion went into Continental Europe. Managers had a 25.1 per cent return from UK bonds, their best for 10 years. WM found that pension funds are expressing more interest in property. Following three years of negative yield the return was 18.8 per cent.

Overall, the funds generated £10.5 billion in income. Of this, £3.4 billion was reinvested. The balance went on pension payments.

## United buys BBA units for £25m

By Colin Campbell

UNITED Industries has bought several specialised industrial materials interests from BBA Group, in a £25 million cash deal. United is buying Holden Hydroman, Perplas and Railko, which serve the automotive, bottling and canning, and general industrial markets.

The businesses made an operating profit of £2.86 million in 1993. The deal will be funded via a placing and offer of shares, to raise £26 million.

In the nine months to December 31, United made an operating loss of £1.06 million and a pre-tax loss of £1.49 million, on turnover of £19.2 million. In the 12 months to last April 3, there was a pre-tax loss of £3.63 million.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### MGN party adds 15% to Independent stake

THE consortium led by Mirror Group Newspapers bidding to buy *The Independent's* publisher has gathered 15.1 per cent of the share capital to add to its existing 47 per cent stake. The shares were bought in the market on Wednesday and yesterday, after Newspaper Publishing's Independent directors backed the bid, which includes a 35p-a-share cash alternative valuing the company at £74.7 million.

The purchases, and the success of the bid, are conditional on Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, clearing the takeover, without a reference to the Monopolies Commission, by the end of this month. The offer document will be sent to Newspaper Publishing shareholders today. Mr Heseltine is expected to make his decision early next week, which would allow the consortium, made up of Mirror Group Newspapers and Newspaper Publishing's Spanish and Italian shareholders, to declare the offer unconditional. He will also rule on the decision of Tony O'Reilly to raise his holding by 5 per cent, to 29.9 per cent.

### Electricity prices frozen

THREE of the 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales have announced price freezes or reductions to run from April 1, when VAT on fuel takes effect. London Electricity is cutting 3.3 per cent off standard residential unit rates, or 4.4 per cent for those customers paying by direct debit, and freezing standard charges. East Midlands Electricity is freezing prices, with 1 per cent off for direct debit customers paying monthly. Southern Electric is also instituting a price freeze and says, taking into account earlier reductions, the average customer will see a £40 cut in bills in real terms for this year and the next combined.

### PizzaExpress soars

PizzaExpress, which went public last year by reversing into Star Computer Group, saw its shares rise 4p to 131p after it disclosed pre-tax profits had jumped to £3.1 million in 1993. This compared with £55,000 the previous year and a flotation price of 40p. The increase included a £1.1 million profit on the sale of the computer business, leaving the group to focus on its restaurants and pizza wholesaling. Company restaurant turnover increased by 17 per cent, compared with an 11 per cent rise in franchise turnover. Five new company-owned restaurants were opened during the year. A second interim dividend of 0.5p has been declared.

### Bunzl expands in US

BUNZL, the paper to plastics and specialty materials group, is expanding its operations in the US with two acquisitions for a total of about \$12 million. Ziff Paper, a distributor of paper and plastics disposables, is being bought for an estimated \$8 million. Ziff, which is based in Massachusetts and distributes its products in the New England region, had sales of \$54 million in the year to August 31, with net assets of about \$500,000. Bunzl is also acquiring MSI, a privately owned injection moulder of specialty tube fittings for the oil and gas industry, for an estimated \$4 million. MSI, based in Houston, had sales of \$4.5 million last year.

### Baltic returns to black

BAITIC, the finance and leasing company, returned to the black with pre-tax profits of £4.38 million in 1993, compared with losses of £6.5 million the previous year. Earnings per share were 8p, compared with a 16.9p loss per share last time, and net asset value increased from 118p to 132p per share. The dividend for the year has been increased from 1p to 1.5p. The company said the improvement reflected non-recurrence of bad debt provisions and property write-downs, and lower interest charges. Baitic is seeking to broaden its lending from asset finance to structured transactions.

### Wyevale looking to buy

WYEVALE Garden Centres is still looking for acquisitions to make use of the £10.9 million raised through a rights issue in November. The company said pre-tax profits in 1993 rose 26 per cent to £4.45 million, on sales up 6 per cent to £36.6 million. Christopher Powell, chairman, said the group was considering a number of acquisition opportunities, and added that Wyevale's performance was against a backdrop of price stability and, in many cases, price deflation. The total dividend is 4.4p (4p) via a 1.65p final. Earnings per share moved up to 9.7p (7.8p).

## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

**BENSONS CRISPS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £302,000  
EPS: 4.1p (5p)  
Div: 2.28p (2.85p)

**GALLIFORD (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £287,000  
EPS: 0.2p (0.27p)  
Div: 0.5p (0.5p)

**LINK PRINTING TECH.**  
Pre-tax: £291,000 loss  
EPS: 1.78p loss  
Div: 0.25p (0.87p)

**PARAMOUNT (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £273,000  
EPS: 0.41p (0.33p)  
Div: Nil (nil)

**RECORD HLDS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £2.4m (£1.09m)  
EPS: 4.5p (1.7p)  
Div: 2.45p, mkg 3.6p

**RENISHAW (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £2.8m (£3.1m)  
EPS: 4p (4.4p)  
Div: 2.5p (2.5p)

Profits in previous year were £500,000. Turnover rose to £34.5 million, from £33.1 million. Margins remain under great pressure.

Previous interim profits were £227,000. Second half likely to be difficult, but there are signs of stronger demand in some sectors.

Interim results. Profits were £783,000 last time, with earnings of 3.7p a share. Trading since half-year has improved.

Previous interim profits were £251,000. Company will seek a full listing on the Stock Exchange. Prospects encouraging.

Total dividend in previous year was 3.6p. Turnover was £29.4 million, up from £28.5 million, but costs were slightly reduced.

Turnover rose to £23.3 million, from £22 million. Company has seen increased activity in sales and orders received.

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□ High boardroom pay should depend on performance □ Blurred screens at MAI and Carlton □ Importance of not going bust

## Too much reward without risk

THE GOLDEN rule for getting rich without effort is to deal in big money. The bigger the sums, the thinner the percentage you need to rake off in fees, commissions or margins without upsetting people. The same idea has taken over in boardroom pay, but more and more people are noticing and getting upset. Allowing for the jealousy factor, even prime ministers and chancellors, while studiously washing their hands, find some of the payments impossible to support. The theory is simple. Employees' pay must be kept to the minimum, because employees are labour and that is a big element in costs. But top managers cease to be labour. One or two directors can make the difference between success and failure, yet their pay is small compared with the sums they are managing, so cost is no object. If a company lags its competitors, it pays to recruit a star manager for whatever it takes. Remuneration committees of non-executive directors ensure fair play. When reality intrudes, however, this cosy theory breaks down. How can that competitor down the road pay its home grown managers less than the star at the unsuccessful company? Average pay and conditions are ratcheted up. Chief executives must be paid more than finance directors, whose

peer group in top accountancy firms prospers by operating the golden rule. That remuneration committee is often a watchdog without a bark. Top managers choose top managers from other companies as its members. Do to others as you would expect them to do to you is the motto. And there is always the threat, usually slight, that bright managers will rush off to make money in leveraged buyouts or buy-ins unless paid the rewards of a successful entrepreneur. Relatively few people resent risk-takers who create businesses making piles of money. Venture capital funds insist managers they back have powerful incentives for success. Less acceptable is the privileged status of reward without risk for the merely competent. Standard packages too often include a generous salary, plus share options that should yield large capital gains for basic competence, plus bonuses for achieving a bit more, plus special pension provisions, plus three-year rolling contracts to cushion any risk of failure. As Sir Owen Green, main

begetter of BTR, has pointed out, there is little evidence to link these generous packages with performance. That is the key to controlling them. Government should force disclosure of total remuneration, as in America. Then big shareholders should lay down tighter rules. These should make options and bonuses alternatives and ensure that options only make a profit if shares rise faster than the long-term trend. They should limit rolling contracts to two years and insist they are earned, not granted to untried recruits who often fall swiftly by the wayside. Top pay is a cost too.

### The Hollick/Green affair

THOSE attempting to tune into the television soap opera currently being played out between MAI, led by Lord Hollick, and Carlton Communications, spearheaded by Michael Green, may experience a somewhat blurred screen. Hard on the heels of Carlton's agreed £750 million acquisition of



Central Television and MAI's agreed £290 million purchase of Anglia, Green and Hollick would appear to be getting the measure of each other. Word has it that the relationship is not entirely sweetness and light and, by strange coincidence, a report appeared last weekend to the effect that minority shareholders in MAI's 61 per cent controlled Meridian Broadcasting offshoot were unhappy. Carlton, via Central, holds 20 per cent of Meridian, while SelectTV owns 15 per cent, and their unhappiness, so the story went, related to Hollick's alleged plans for MAI Broadcasting to emerge as the parent of Anglia, with the latter's operations merged with Meridian.

Such unhappiness, so it was said, focused on fears that profits from the Anglia/Meridian rationalisation might by-pass Meridian and flow into MAI Broadcasting. It is understood, however, that there are other reasons for unhappiness at Carlton's Hanover Square HQ. Green's game plan, according to industry sources, was to sell Central's 20 per cent stake in Meridian to Hollick as swiftly, and profitably, as possible. Feels to this end are said to have been put out but Hollick, never the easiest industrialist to read, is said to have refused to rise to the fly. Meanwhile, news came on Monday that Anglia, which already owns 43 per cent of sales house TSMS, is set to acquire Central's 43 per cent stake, along with the 14 per cent held by TSMS's managing director Tim Wootton. With TSMS acting as sales agent for Anglia and Central, an unwinding was inevitable but speculation has it that Carlton might have preferred to retain TSMS, a deciding factor being Wootton's decision to nail his flag to MAI.

Those in the vicinity of Hanover Square categorically deny unhappiness over these unreported matters. Carlton's camp points out that it would have a duty to consider an offer for its minority interest in Meridian and argues that a decision was taken that advertising would be sold in house. Blurred, not least because neither Hollick, nor Wootton, nor Allan McKeown at SelectTV are prepared to comment. Hollick, however, is reputed to be smiling.

### Short-termism on solvency

YOU MIGHT think the top priority driving boards' planning should be to make absolutely sure their company does not go bust. All other plans depend on this. Apparently not. According to a committee representing finance directors and chartered accountants, it would be unfair to expect directors to have worked out in enough detail to be confident that their company will stay solvent for even a year ahead. The

"foreseeable future" should be only until the end of the current financial year, because that is the extent of companies' detailed budgeting. On this absurdity, one of the main proposals of the Cadbury committee on financial corporate governance is still in limbo and the future of an essential plank of the new regime for financial reporting lies in doubt. The argument is merely about the period between the end of the financial year and the signing of accounts. The symbolism is greater. The Auditing Practices Board, in an attempt to restore some faith in company accounts after all the recent sudden collapses, is insisting that auditors should satisfy themselves with directors' assertions that their company is a going concern until the next accounts. But the committee set up to sort out the argument will have none of it. The English Institute of Chartered Accountants, in its latest response to the APB, even challenges the board's authority in this area. Disclosures of information to back going concern claims are, it argues, a matter for the Accounting Standards Board, not the APB. And it is not for auditors to decide how far directors should be expected to look ahead. Oh no? Try asking the shareholders and creditors.

## Buoyant Zeneca urges rate cut to boost upturn

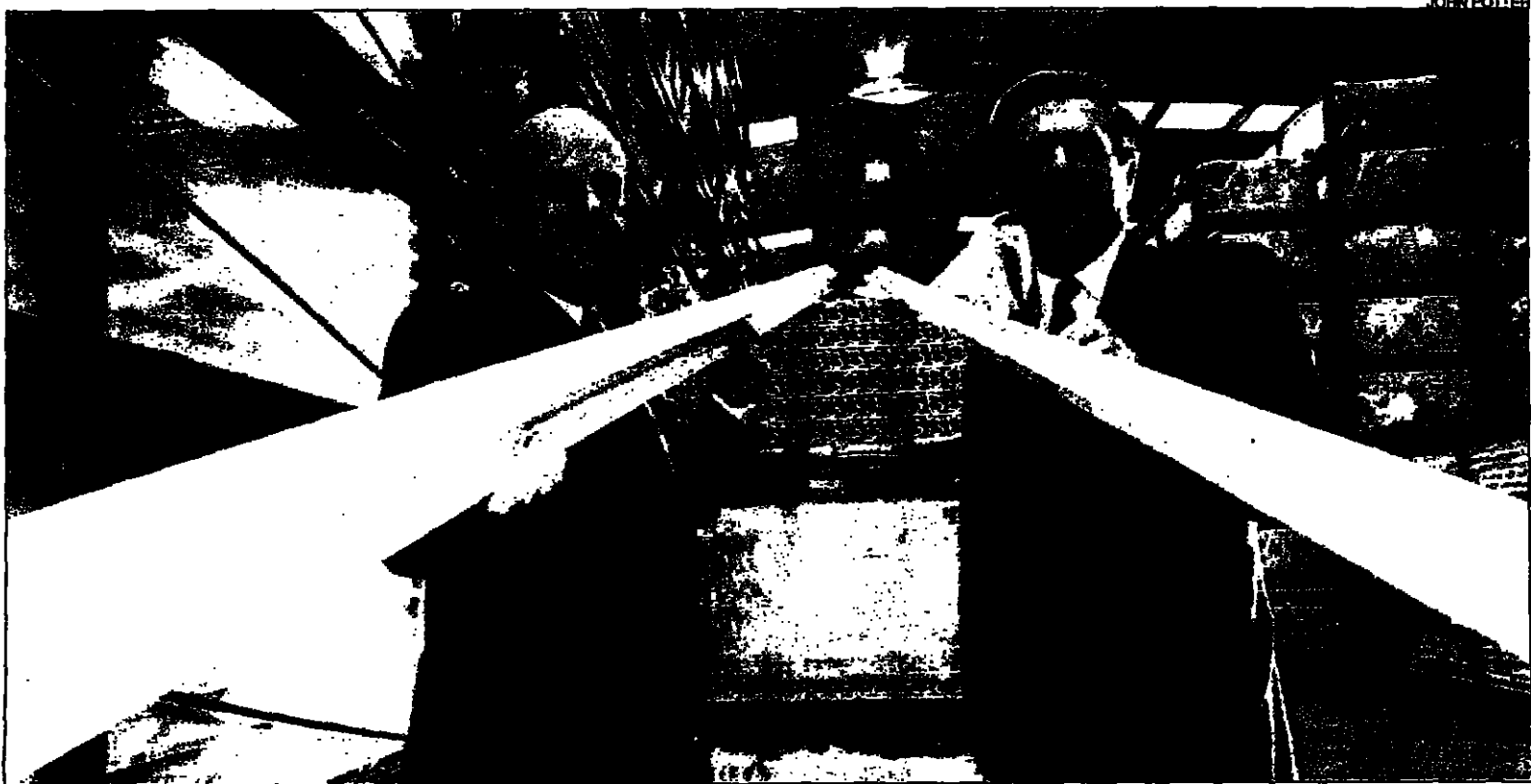
By SARAH BAGNALL

SIR Denis Henderson, the chairman of Zeneca, the pharmaceuticals company, urged the government to cut interest rates to underpin the patchy recovery in the UK and to help retain sterling's competitive edge. "There is some scope to move interest rates down," he said. "The UK recovery is under way but you have to look at what is going to happen when the new taxes kick in in April." His remarks were made as Zeneca, which has export sales of £4.5 million a day, unveiled its first full-year results since its merger with ICI. Pre-tax profits for 1993 rose by £540 million, to £642 million, on the back of a 12 per cent rise in sales, to £4.44 billion. The final dividend is 17p, as indicated at the time of flotation, making a total for the year of 27.5p. The sharp rise in profits fell within the City's expected range and the shares firmed slightly before falling 3p to end the day at 763p — compared with the flotation offer price of 600p. The company benefited from favourable exchange

rates, which lifted the value of sales by 12 per cent and that of trading profits by 22 per cent. In 1993, Zeneca's export sales totalled £1.7 billion, equal to one month's trade deficit, said David Barnes, the company's chief executive. Overall, trading profits grew by 21 per cent, to £713 million, of which 14 per cent arose from underlying volume growth and 1 per cent from price increases. Higher fixed costs and divestments offset much of the exchange rate benefits. All the company's divisions performed well. The pharmaceuticals division lifted its contribution to trading profits by 21 per cent, to £589 million; agriculturals were 1 per cent ahead, at £86 million; and specialities advanced by 92 per cent, to £50 million. The pharmaceuticals division's best-selling product, Tenormin, a beta-blocker, saw sales slump by £70 million, to £464 million, reflecting the continued onslaught from generic competition since the demise of the drug's US patent in September 1991. More than offsetting this fall was a £226

million increase in sales of Zeneca's newer products, namely Zestril, a heart drug, Zoladex, a cancer treatment, and Diprivan, an anaesthetic. Geographically, sales rose in all markets except the UK, in spite of healthcare reforms in the world's six biggest pharmaceutical markets. In the two biggest markets, the US and Japan, sales rose by 18 per cent, to £782 million, and by 37 per cent, to £261 million, respectively. The sharp improvement in profitability in the specialities division reflected earlier restructuring, coupled with increased sales volumes and exchange rate gains. Group profits benefited from lower interest charges as a result of last year's £1.3 billion rights issue, which helped to reduce net borrowings from £1.8 billion to £188 million and gearing from 25.7 per cent to 11.7 per cent. Total research and development spending rose by 14 per cent, to £519 million, equal to 11.7 per cent of sales.

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Jim Rawson, left, chairman of Epwin, maker of PVC windows and doors, and John Townsend, finance director, view materials used by the company, which has unveiled pre-tax profits of £1.1 million after a £10 million two-year capital spending programme. Epwin, floated in 1987, made profits of £4.7 million (£3.1 million) in 1993. The total dividend is 7.5p, up 10 per cent on earnings per share of 15.2p, up 28 per cent. Consumer confidence is improving, Mr Rawson said.

## Rhino charges ahead with expansion

By PHILIP PANGALOS

RHINO Group, the computer and video games retailer, plans further expansion after acquisition of Virgin Games Stores from Virgin Retail and WH Smith. Turnover at the original five stores grew 20 per cent in the year. Rhino, which claims to have taken business away from some of its high street competi-

tors after a shift away from non-specialist activity, plans to open a further 40 Future Zone stores in the current year. With about 2.5 million games hardware units sold last year in Britain, demand for games software remains strong as people want additional games once they have paid the initial hefty cost of buying the hardware. Rhino has benefited from, having a

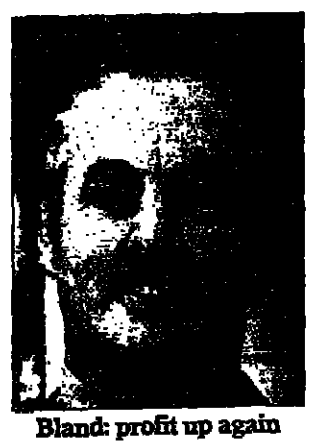
range about 2,000 games, while high street competitors offer less choice. Bev Ripley, chairman, said the important Christmas trading period had been "wonderful". He expected the software market to grow "quite strongly" this year. Earnings surged to 2.49p (0.39p) a share. There is a single final dividend of 0.5p (nil). Rhino's USM-quoted shares added 5p to 43p.

## Slump finally hits Life Sciences

By MARTIN BARROW

LIFE Sciences International, the laboratory instruments supplier chaired by Sir Christopher Bland, lifted profits for the seventh consecutive year in 1993, even though the recession finally caught up with its main markets. Pre-tax profits rose to £23 million, from £20.6 million, helped by a maiden contribution from LabSystems, the Finnish maker of laboratory equipment acquired in June for £33.5 million. Earnings per share rose by only 3 per cent, from 9.1p to 9.4p, partly reflecting the issue of shares to help to fund the acquisition, and a higher tax charge. The total dividend rises by 10 per cent, to 3.9p, with a 2.5p final, and is covered 2.4 times. The shares fell 15p, to 140p, amid City disappointment at the underlying profits trend. Sir Christopher — receiving £14 million in the takeover of LWT Holdings, of which he is

also chairman — owns about a million Life Sciences shares. Sir Christopher said that worldwide recession had at last had a significant impact on the company's markets. Turnover rose to £154.24 million, from £150.88 million, with a £25.5 million contribution from acquisitions.



Bland: profit up again

## ABP announces return to black

By CARL MORTISHED

STRONG growth in car exports and container traffic is raising hopes of a recovery in international trade at Associated British Ports. The UK's leading port operator, with 25 per cent of the market, made pre-tax profits of £62.1 million in the year to December after a property-related loss of £36.6 million last time. Sir Keith Stuart, chairman, said that the 1992 property provision of £84 million had cleared the decks for the group to "perform well on a sustained basis" from now on. Volumes at the group's ports grew by 1 million tonnes to 105 million, with strong growth in container traffic and timber, which was up 20 per cent owing to an upturn in the housing industry. The increase in manufactured goods was offset by lower volumes in coal, oil and grain. Though volumes grew, profits from port operations fell

from £60.7 million to £55.9 million after an £8 million charge for severance payments. ABP laid off 200 workers last year but the company expects the cost of redundancies in the current year to fall to £2 million. ABP spent £50 million on improvements at its ports. Port-related property income was marginally higher, at £20.7 million, while investment on written-down properties produced profits of £10.9 million (£9.1 million). A revaluation of the portfolio at the end of December generated a surplus of £43 million, which helped to boost net assets from £580 million to £657 million and reduced gearing from 60 per cent to 52 per cent. ABP is paying 9.3p (8.5p) a share total dividend out of earnings per share of 25.5p (14.3p loss).

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## Revamp pays dividends at Philips

FROM MARK FULLER IN Eindhoven

PHILIPS, the Dutch electronics group, swung back into the black last year with a net profit on ordinary operations of 856 million guilders (£299 million) compared with a 1992 loss of 900 million guilders. Overall, net profit climbed to 1.965 billion guilders after an extraordinary gain from the sale of Philips's 35 per cent stake in MEC, a joint venture with Matsushita. Announcing its first dividend in three years, Philips said recovery had been soured by problems at two German subsidiaries, Grundig and Philips Kommunikationsindustrie (PKI). Jan Timmer, Philips's president, said the two

companies' survival depended on accelerating restructuring programmes. Grundig's results to a great extent were "distorting" Philips's other businesses, which had made great sacrifices over the past three years, "losing patience". A proposed DM350 million reorganisation plan at Grundig would not be enough: big reductions in costs and jobs would be needed at both Grundig and PKI. Other consumer electronics activities returned to profit, a year earlier than planned and despite price erosion of 2 per cent. Mr Timmer said the rest of the group's operations either improved or maintained profitability, except for professional products and systems, where

income tumbled to 177 million guilders from 663 million, owing to PKI's losses. The proposed dividend of 50 cents per share indicated Philips's confidence that it had "passed the very worst of its problems", Mr Timmer said. However, Philips believes that further improvement this year will depend on Europe's pace of recovery from recession. The fruits of Philips's tough reorganisation over the past three years were beginning to show through in the figures, Mr Timmer said. The workforce had been cut by almost 60,000, to 238,000. "We can now slowly start to revitalise the company," Mr Timmer said, "cutting costs is not enough. We need to develop products and take risks."

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# Dealing with Pacific tigers can prove a risky business

Ross Tieman believes the Pergau dam affair highlights the ambivalent attitudes of former colonial territories towards the West

We are decadent, immoral and lazy. We are arrogant, even though our economic power and technological sophistication and still, on average, richer. Our industrial importance may be in relative decline, but from time to time we display an infuriating patience, a surprising wisdom.

We are Westerners, as viewed by the governments of the emerging nations of the Pacific rim. The reaction of developing nations to our ways may seem at times petulant and childlike, but that is no cause for us to be patronising. Anger within the Malaysian administration over British reporting of the Pergau dam affair is more vitriolic than generally displayed in the region. But the affair also focuses attention on the changing balance of economic power between Pacific Asia and the West, and the problems, on both sides, of adapting to it.

The "tiger" economies of the Asia-Pacific region have detached themselves from the world economy and sailed through the G7 recession with extraordinary growth rates of up to 10 per cent a year. Taiwan, Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia — together they have become a new nexus of growing prosperity on the world stage, with mainland China and Vietnam blazing brightly in their wake.

Malaysia, which only 20 years ago relied heavily for foreign earnings on exports of commodities such as rubber, foodstuffs and tin, has developed integrated manufacturing centres, such as that at Penang, producing a wide range of sophisticated electronic equipment, and Kuala Lumpur, home of the Proton car.

Education has provided near universal literacy and widespread technical skills. And the Chinese communities scattered throughout the region have contributed capital, entrepreneurship and trade links. Rising prosperity has created new markets for both consumer and capital goods at a time of stagnation in Western demand.

The Japanese had tended to regard the Pacific as their back yard, transplanting manufacturing facilities and developing markets for electronic goods and cars. Their influence is considerable, but often much less than might be expected.

The "Buy British Last" policy adopted by Malaysia in the early 1980s is, after all, an oddity. Companies originating in former colonial powers often enjoy significant, though sometimes quite subtle, advantages.

In former French and British colonies throughout the region, administrative institutions follow the pattern established in the colonial era, making bureaucracy easier to understand. Technical standards are often maintained too — helpful when tendering to supply infrastructure equipment. And there is a cultural legacy of language, tastes and aspirations which often seems to gain in significance as prosperity rises. Despite the frowns of their leaders, the people of the Asia-Pacific region often express their appetite for modernity by consuming Western-style food, drink and culture.

The pace of economic expansion has created wide opportunities for Western firms. European and American chemi-



Kuala Lumpur provides evidence that rising prosperity has created new markets for consumer and capital goods

cal companies, including ICI, have left their Japanese rivals standing in the race to build plants in the region.

Singapore has become a big market for British industrial intermediates — products used in the manufacture of consumer goods. From pharmaceuticals and toiletries to television programmes, recorded music and luxury goods, Western companies with strong brands are enjoying considerable success.

In services such as insurance, banking, securities dealing and property, the British and other Europeans are giving the Japanese a run for their money. And in energy, the Western oil giants and indigenous administrations have reached a mature accommodation. But there are sometimes strains (it

ment in the West has increased the importance of such projects to Western companies, and hence Western governments).

Last September, John Major, took a detour to the Malaysian capital on his way back from a G7 economic meeting in Japan. On arrival at Kuala Lumpur, the British Prime Minister was accompanied to a series of meetings by 13 British industrialists who had either travelled with him from Japan or travelled to meet him. Among them: Lord Prior, the chairman of GEC; Dick Evans, the chief executive of British Aerospace and Sir Ralph Robbins, the chairman of the Rolls-Royce power plant company. When the Prime Minister flew out, less than 24 hours later, a package of deals supposedly worth £1 billion had been signed. In total, Mr Major estimated that the agreements would secure around 25,000 jobs in the United Kingdom.

The most significant deal, by value, was the participation of Balfour Beatty, Trafalgar House Construction and GEC, with two Japanese partners, in a consortium to build the new Kuala Lumpur airport. Malaysian authorities have now told Trafalgar it will be ruled out because British companies are to be excluded from Malaysian government contracts in the wake of the Pergau dam affair.

That is not all. Trafalgar believes it will be allowed to finish a £129 million power station, because work has begun, but it is waiting to hear about the future of a deal to build and operate a steel fabrication plant. Although deals between private companies are not covered by the ban, Trafalgar's partner in the plant is state-owned. Companies are understandably anx-

ious about the prospects for contracts which they have worked toward for years. At the urging of the British Government, Sir Michael Angus, the president of the Confederation of British Industry, says that in some countries, the legitimate support of United Kingdom aid-and-trade provisions can make all the difference between contracts going to British firms or to their competitors.

British lead contractors do tend to sub-contract work to UK firms. In total, almost 90 UK firms are involved in construction of the Pergau dam. But contractors also hire labour where they build, and spend much of the contract value there too. So the benefit to British jobs of such deals is substantially less than that achieved by direct exports to Malaysia, which amounted to some £965 million, compared to £1.4 billion of imports, last year.

For companies, the Pergau dam affair is a reminder of the need to spread risk across different territories. The British capital goods and construction industries are increasingly competitive, as shown by their success elsewhere in the region — Trafalgar House is also active in Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong and China.

Malaysia's apparent willingness to flout agreements in a fit of political pique raises the level of risk involved in doing business there. Companies, from any country, are now going to want higher returns from future investments in Malaysia. In the longer term, the biggest loser will be Malaysia's economy. Companies, too, can choose with whom they do business.

Clearly, the rising involvement of British governments in export contracts, particularly evident in arms sales, contains dangers. Industrialists should continue to make their own assessment of risk. The thaws in political relationships between states can prove as fickle, or ephemeral, as the politicians who bring them about.

## TEMPUS

### Ladbroke's new lease

THE Berlin Wall has come down, overnight. Time was when the reclusive Cyril Stein, like a reluctant oyster, would disclose facts only after the most assiduous probing. So great is the culture change at Ladbroke that analysts are now in danger of drowning in a morass of data.

All this is part of the new management's attempts to draw a line under the past 37 years. The surprise, perhaps, is that the 1993 figures are not the horror story some had feared. True, Texas is a disaster area and will not improve greatly until the Boots/WH Smith Do It All joint venture finally takes to its death bed, the DIY retail market being too crowded to accommodate all the existing players. Texas did not help its fortunes by over-optimism at the interim stage, when £5 million was taken into profits that subse-

quently had to come out of the second half. Ladbroke is insisting the business is not for sale; this most likely reflects the lack of buyers at a decent price at this stage in the retail cycle, as the group does not regard itself long-term as a retailer.

While the property portfolio will be sold off as buyers appear, the level of borrowings, even allowing for a potential £210 million addition from off-balance sheet liabilities, does not suggest any great urgency to sell. The shares yield 3.7 per cent on this year's projected dividend and sell on 23 times' earnings, numbers which hardly label Ladbroke a recovery stock. But sentiment is turning, and small shareholders heading for the exit after the dividend cut should find buyers among institutions that would previously have shunned the stock.

### Zeneca

BEING a man with the privilege of wearing two very posh hats, Sir Denis Henderson is enjoying the irony that perceptions of Zeneca's two main businesses are changing. There was a time when share ratings in the pharmaceutical sector were to be envied, compared with boring old commodity chemicals, and it was thought unfortunate that Zeneca was to be saddled with the agrochemicals business of ICI.

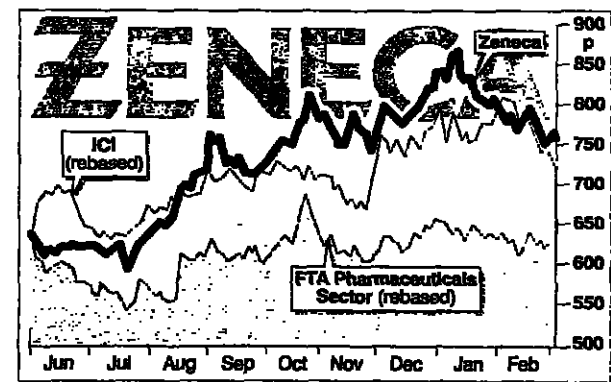
Post-Hillary Clinton and the Seehofer reforms in Germany, the drugs business is looking in need of a tonic while the market seems determined to believe that the bulk chemicals industry is back in recovery mode. The difference can be seen in the ratings of ICI and Zeneca, with the former trading on over 20 times forecast

1994 earnings while the market grudgingly allows Zeneca a rating of less than 14 times expectations of 55p earnings in the current year.

Bulls of Zeneca believe the company will be able to bring its agrochemical margins from 6 per cent to the low teens, a prospect which could add some £70 million to group trading profit. Tak-

ing out large chunks of the fixed cost base in agrochemicals will take time and right now the markets are still recovering from effect of the CAP reforms.

Of more immediate concern to investors is the dividend, which is unlikely to be increased this year if the company is to improve cover to twice the level of the payout.



### AB Ports

IRREVERENT observers of Associated British Ports might be tempted to rename it BAA-by-the-Sea. Both companies have huge property holdings that they exploit by renting space to their customers (shippers or airlines) at the same time as they develop adjoining land for non-port tenants and investors.

The comparison has not gone unnoticed by the stock market, which gives the companies a similar rating, but there are reasons why ABP's management should feel flattered by the comparison.

Ports are unlikely to generate the volume growth of their air-based brethren, which have the distinct advantage of a customer base (the airlines) determined to raise traffic through cut-throat competition. Having raised its margins to almost 40 per cent through reductions in the labour force and productivity gains from investment in equipment, ABP is less sensitive to movements in the trade cycle.

Raising that margin further will be difficult and future growth in the ports

business will depend on ABP's ability to divert trade from rivals with the attraction of new facilities: hence the high level of its capital investment.

What ABP also sadly lacks is the glamour of duty-free retailing, a deficiency it may seek to remedy with high-profile office developments such as Cardiff Bay. Cautious shareholders will be wary of putting too much faith in non-port related property, bearing in mind the scale of ABP's recent property losses.

### Midland Independent

THERE is no doubt the management team at Midland Independent Newspapers has done an impressive job since the buyout almost three years ago. Operating profits have nearly trebled and margins have increased from 8.9 per cent to 20 per cent as costs have been cut and loss-making titles returned to the black. And all against the backdrop of recession.

The key question facing potential investors now is how much more growth, and margin improvement, is to come. Even if the group does very little, there should be significant benefits from recovery in the advertising market. An increase in advertising revenue has a disproportionately large impact on profits as 85 per cent of the additional turnover filters straight down to the bottom line. With its wide spread of titles across the Midlands, the company is in a strong position to benefit from any pick-up in advertising.

Acquisitions are still a source of growth too. There are opportunities to buy titles in the East Midlands and the company is prepared to go outside the region to expand. Its record shows that it can pick up publications that are losing money or have inferior margins to its own and turn them round. Midland's continuing operations achieve margins of 21 per cent compared with the 9 per cent made by acquired businesses.

On an historic p/e of about 20 times, the company is at a generous discount to other regional publishers whose shares are trading at about 24 times earnings.

**The biggest loser will turn out to be Malaysia's economy. Companies, too, can choose with whom they do business**

Trafalgar House Construction and GEC, with two Japanese partners, in a consortium to build the new Kuala Lumpur airport. Malaysian authorities have now told Trafalgar it will be ruled out because British companies are to be excluded from Malaysian government contracts in the wake of the Pergau dam affair.

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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Shrewd stake for Postel

POSTEL's recent purchase of a small foothold of up to 3 per cent in Sonae, Portugal's retailing, property and forestry products group, is commendable, when one looks at the position that Belmiro de Azevedo, the Sonae chairman, has secured for his company. In London yesterday to update the City on his activities, he oozed confidence about his retailing future, in particular, after reporting a jump in consolidated profits for 1993 of 112 per cent. Brimming with enthusiasm, de Azevedo says that while the Portuguese government has declared a halt to new building licences for hypermarkets, he has enough permits stashed away to last him ages. Indeed, he has started construction work on what he believes will be the biggest hypermarket in Europe — the 180,000 square foot Colombo scheme near (and bigger than) Benfica's famous stadium in Lisbon. He expects retail turnover to grow 20 per cent this year, and claims that he can squeeze 50 per cent more sales per square foot out of his stores than Sainsbury manages in Britain. Tycoon-

like, de Azevedo has ventured into newspapers too, building *Publico* into Portugal's second biggest paper. Although *El Pais* and *La Republica* hold minority stakes, as they do at *The Independent*, he assures me he has no plans to sell out to Mirror Group Newspapers.

### Pavement artist

DEFT footwork by Mike Trippitt, most recently at TSB, who was all set to take up a post with Nikko Europe. He duly snarled work as a banking analyst last week... at SG Warburg Securities. Was this one of the most short-lived appointments in City history?

Not so. Trippitt was indeed set to join Nikko, after four years at TSB, but side-stepped to 1 Finsbury Pavement after Warburg intervened with a rival offer.

### Intent on golf

FIRST life insurance. Now golf. Marks and Spencer appears to be doing for women's golf what NatWest and Gillette have done for one-day cricket. After taking a stand in the tented village at the Open last year at Royal St George's, the retailer has agreed to sponsor next month's European tour by professional women, dragging Ford and

KLM along in its wake. Terry Coates, the organiser, says that the presence of M&S has made all the difference. "This year's tour is unrecognisable from ten years ago," he says. "The M&S involvement has created a great impact." By the end of the century, Coates expects the tour to be worth about £10 million in prizes and sponsorship. And it all started from a tent on the Kent coast eight months ago.

REMEMBER the old joke about the Irish schoolteacher who told his class at registration: "If you're not here, put your hand up." The Australian High Commission has sent facsimiles to newspaper Business Editors asking if they have the correct fax number. The message says: "Replies need only be despatched if the incorrect number has been used."

### Penny phone-in

WHAT do Cox & Kings, Sainsbury's customer service, Westminster University, the DTI, HM Prison Service and the TSB have in common? Yes, you've guessed it: the numbers are strikingly similar to the direct line of Penny Phillips, press officer at the London of-

fice of Ernst & Young, the firm of accountants. The coincidences could be dire, as this recent conversation bears out: "Hello, press office." "Yes, hello. It's Wandsworth prison here, just phoning to report that a prisoner is at large." "Well, thank you. Why are you telling me?" "We always tell the Prison Service when there is an escaped convict." "We're Ernst & Young, not the Prison Service, but thanks, we will look out for him." On another occasion, a woman rang the firm wanting to book a holiday trip to India. She was let off lightly.

### Memorial service

A SERVICE in memory of Alasdair Stewart, the BZW engineering analyst who died of a heart attack in December, aged 30, will be held in the City next week. It takes place at St Michael's Parish Church, Cornhill, at noon on Tuesday, to be followed by a buffet lunch at Ebbgate House. Stewart joined BZW from Carr, Kitchat & Aitken last summer, having previously worked for Nikko Securities, Charterhouse Tilney and Chase Manhattan.

JON ASHWORTH

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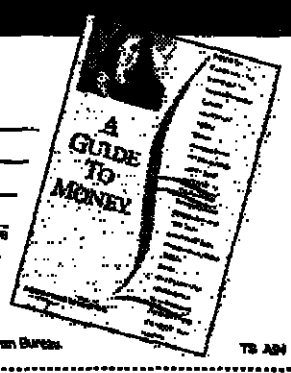
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## Shares recover their poise

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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	DRAPERY, STORES				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	FINANCIAL TRUSTS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	FOODS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	BREWERIES				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	BUILDING, ROADS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	ELECTRICALS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	HOTELS, CATERERS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	INDUSTRIALS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	BUSINESS SERVICES				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	ELECTRICITY				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	FINANCE, LAND				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	CHEMICALS, PLASTICS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	SHORTS (under 5 years)				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	MEDIUMS (5 to 10 years)				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	LONGS (over 10 years)				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	BRITISH FUNDS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	INDEX-TRACKED				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	UNDATED				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	OILS, GAS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	WATER				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	TRANSPORT				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	TOBACCO				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	SHOES, LEATHER				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	TEXTILES				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	NEWS, PUBLISHERS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	MOTORS, AIRCRAFT				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 28. Dealings end March 11. Settlement day March 14. Prices are for the previous business day. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	DRAPERY, STORES				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	FINANCIAL TRUSTS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	FOODS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	BREWERIES				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	BUILDING, ROADS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	ELECTRICALS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	HOTELS, CATERERS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	INDUSTRIALS				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	BUSINESS SERVICES				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	ELECTRICITY				
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			
100.00	99.00	100.00	99.00			

19 AAF Inds	57	+ 1	103.35	5
455 AAF	452	+ 1	44	164
123 ADA	120	+ 1	55	208
82 AIV	122	...	5.5	12
81 ASW	140	...	4.0	80
118 Advent	126	...	49	77.5
8 Aerospace Eng	125	...	54	...
249 Aerospace	300	...	19.87	102
113 Alexander	209	...	41	25.751
6 Allied Radio	11	...	7.4	168
204 Allied	11	...	7.4	168



# INFOTECH

You are thinking about buying a mobile phone — but can you justify the cost? Matthew May looks at the tangled world of telephones

## Mapping the mobile jungle

The battle to win some of the hundreds of thousands of new customers signing up for mobile phones is heating up this week with yet more options becoming available.

During February, more than 80,000 new users are estimated to have signed up, pushing the total to more than two million. Next month there will be more competition as Hutchison Microtel says it will finally start another mobile network promising to offer cheaper calls.

Mobile phones may still be seen as expensive luxuries for those unable to justify them for business reasons but incentive pricing is starting to widen their appeal.

Reservations about signing up for a mobile usually come down to price, price and price. And it is not so much the cost of the phone but the fear that the mixture of monthly subscriptions and high call charges will result in an annual bill hundreds of pounds higher than expected.

One other increasingly important factor is confusion caused by the huge array of baffling schemes with different charges on offer.

The three existing operators of mobile phone networks — Cellnet, Vodafone and Mercury One-2-One — offer at least ten different ways to sign up. But access is also sold through other companies, so-called service providers, which are starting to put together their own, and sometimes very different packages, to try to tempt customers.

Potential pitfalls for the unwary include the fact that prices are often quoted exclud-

ing VAT, and that the term off-peak does not mean after 6pm and at weekends.

Saturdays are often treated as peak time, and evening off-peak hours can come into effect anywhere between seven and ten o'clock.

The different tariffs on offer are based largely on making adjustments between the cost of the monthly subscription and the call charges. A low monthly charge means expensive calls, a higher one cheaper calls.

Just to complicate matters further, the price of a mobile phone can be arbitrary. In reality they usually cost at least £200, but depending on which tariff scheme you choose they can be heavily subsidised.

To get the best out of any contract for a mobile phone customers need to be able to make a reasonably accurate guess not only about how many minutes of calls they will make each day or month, but whether they are local or national and at what time they will be made. Used wisely, however, some of the tariffs on offer could be a bargain.

This week one service provider, People's Phone, introduced four new options,

bringing the total number of tariffs it offers to ten. What is described as an emergency tariff, for example, costs £10 a month (including VAT, as are all prices mentioned in this article) with £3 a month worth of free phone calls.

Despite the name, callers are not limited to phoning 999 or the AA but if you use your phone for more than the free three minutes a month calls are prohibitively expensive at

drop to 41p a minute peak and 18p a minute off-peak. The two other new tariffs are aimed at business users. Both have monthly charges of £29.37 and distinguish between whether most of your calls are from within or outside an area bounded by the M25.

The provincial tariff costs 59p a minute within the M25 and 24p a minute outside. The London tariff is, however, 18p a minute inside the M25 orbital motorway and 53p a minute outside it.

Charles Wigoder, chief executive of People's Phone, estimates that at the moment his private customers pay an average of £300 a year, while those who have a mobile phone for business use are running at an average of £800 a year.

Customers wanting to make and receive calls only from within or just outside the M25 have a further option with Mercury One-2-One. This digitally-based network was launched last September and made a splash by offering users of its personal call service free off-peak local calls.

This week it announced that new users of its business-call service would get the first 30 minutes of their calls free each

month (worth about £5.80) for six months. Mercury says its service will expand to cover Birmingham by November and then the rest of the Midlands. From the summer, it will offer the ability to make and receive calls from city centres in Bristol, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield, Nottingham and Southampton.

Mobile phones are still nowhere near as cheap as ordinary "fixed line" phones but for those already half convinced they need one — and with the time and inclination to work out the best deal on offer — they are becoming more attractive.

One spin-off from all this is that business travellers who often stay in British hotels can use their mobile phone simply to avoid the ridiculous mark-up on phone calls by some hotel switchboards, which can be as high as 700 per cent. Some hotels even charge 50p or more for a unit that should cost about 5p.

Even those with telephone charge cards can find their free-access numbers barred by the hotel or a hefty levy imposed, typically £1.50. Mercury One-2-One makes a selling point of the fact that calls to 0800 and 0500 numbers are free from its mobile phones, though this does not apply to the other networks.

Even travellers in Britain without mobile phones could benefit from the falling costs of mobile phones as hotel switchboards start to realise they no longer have a monopoly on making calls from their rooms.

Call for help — missing a train could be the ideal time to use your mobile



Call for help — missing a train could be the ideal time to use your mobile

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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Kurt Salmon Associates is an international consultancy practice serving major retailers and their suppliers across the world. To consolidate our lead in the development of the products, processes, systems and people which make up the consumer products supply chain we now require additional consultants to work in our European practice. Applicants must have the potential to move rapidly to senior status and contribute to European business and service development.

Candidates, in the age range 25-35, must hold a good and appropriate honours degree and have a record of successful professional development since graduation. A relevant post-graduate qualification would be an advantage.

Applicants for the distribution practice must have a minimum of two years experience of distribution logistics with a major plc or third party contractor and have specialist skills in at least three of the following:

- transport/distribution strategy
- facilities planning simulation and design
- logistics information systems
- transport/distribution operations
- productivity improvement techniques

Successful applicants will speak good German and be prepared to relocate to Germany for an initial period of up to 12 months.

Applicants for the operations/IT practice must have at least three years experience in a retail or manufacturing environment and will have developed creative solutions to problems in the areas of:

- manufacturing processes
- management of change
- inventory management/quick response
- business process re-engineering
- manufacturing and supply chain information systems

Fluency in a second European language is a requirement for these positions.

All successful candidates will undergo initial training in the USA.

The remuneration package will be set to attract outstanding candidates and will include a car.

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Cheshire,  
WA14 2EY.



## Thieves bite on the Apples

What do the *Big Issue* magazine for the homeless, the Battersea public library, Select Plastics near Cardiff and the Last Word Apple dealer in Fulham have in common? They are some of the hundreds of organisations who have had their computers stolen in the past few months. For the *Big Issue*, it was the second time in six months that its main production machine, an Apple Quadra, had found a new home.

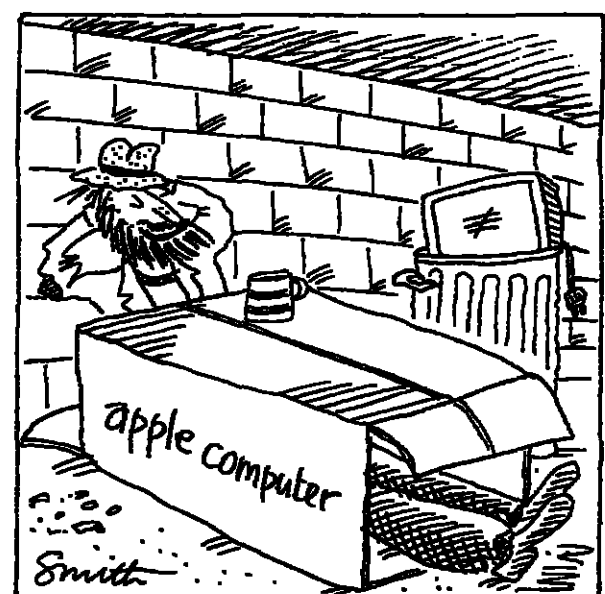
On a slightly bigger scale, early last year Haymarket magazines lost Apple equipment worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, while only last month it was reported that the Bury St Edmunds Free Press lost 34 Apple computers valued at £150,000. The computer dealer, Last Word has been burgled seven times.

John Bird, editor of the *Big Issue*, says: "Whoever is doing this knows what kind of equipment we have." In the insurance loss adjusting business it is widely believed that thieves will steal a system knowing that it will be replaced with a new, more valuable set of kit. Then they strike again.

As with video recorders a few years ago — and now mobile phones — the rise and risk of theft of personal and even larger computers is a sure sign of successful technology. Once any technology has been established as desirable the criminal fraternity is happy to oblige.

With some specialist computer equipment taking as much as six months to be delivered, criminals in some instances are providing, to

The theft of computers is becoming big business for criminals — some systems are being stolen to order



order, a cheaper and faster delivery service than legitimate channels.

Alistair Stevenson, property manager for the Eagle Star insurance company, says: "Last year thefts of computers looked as though they were spiralling out of control. Things have quietened down in recent months. It may be our insistence on better security, and as premiums are going up by as much as 50 per cent it is concentrating people's minds."

Vic Hodgson, assistant director of insurance brokers Jardine's Risk Management, says: "All insurance companies are now putting up

their excesses and demanding both more general and specific security."

Eric Kemp is UK manager of AP Computer Security, based in Aberdeen, which sells and installs lock-down plates and cable systems. He says: "We have seen our business grow by a factor of six in the past year. The problem is such that insurance companies won't cover companies unless they have approved security devices."

"We had one major organisation in Birmingham who took delivery of a few of our systems at lunchtime, were burgled that evening and not even a crowbar could prise away their systems."

That said, one company fastened all four of its computers to a table, only to find that the table and its fixtures went in a removal van.

It is estimated that £60 million to £100 million worth of computer equipment goes missing each year. For many companies the machines are only a small part of the cost, as the software must often be repurchased.

Brian MacHale is the London manager for Applied Technology Adjusting. This Dublin-based firm of chartered loss adjusters first set up in the UK in 1990 and already has four offices, with two more planned.

"It's not just a question of working out what the stolen machines are worth. As much as 50 per cent of any computer theft claim is for the lost data and increased cost of doing business," Mr MacHale says. "In some parts of London, putting up an Apple Mac design sign is becoming the same as saying, come on rob me."

The police and specialist loss adjusters looking at such crimes are convinced there are organised rackets involved. Although Apple is only 10 per cent of the personal computer market, it suffers about 40 per cent of the thefts because of its position in the desktop publishing field.

One widely held theory is that some British computers are even being stolen to order for Eastern European buyers who will pay as much as three quarters of their value.

HUGH THOMPSON

## A nose for heat

SCIENTISTS at IBM say they have developed a sensitive heat-measuring instrument a thousand times more sensitive than anything now available which could become a super-sensitive "nose on a chip". Because the miniature levers used are so small, the scientists say, hundreds or even thousands could be incorporated on a single chip. If each lever is sensitised to detect a specific chemical the result would be something akin to a super-nose. The instrument, called a calorimeter, can measure the heat generated in chemical reactions to within a hundred thousandth of a degree.

### On air

SWISSAIR says it has broadcast the first-ever live television news report on a plane, when a Tokyo-Zurich flight aired Cable News Network programming via satellite. A Swissair official said the broadcast would not be a regular feature on its flights.

### ONLINE

but the technology involved would make future live ground-to-air programming "as commonplace as a living-room television set".

### Polish pirates

THE Business Software Alliance, an international organisation of computer software producers, has turned its attention to Poland where it says computer pirates control 94 per cent of the market. An effective crackdown on piracy is considered possible under the recently approved copyright law that raised standards of intellectual property protection.

### Blue lines

THE head of Belgium's state telephone company has been charged with inciting "debauchery and prostitution" through leasing out sex-phone lines. M Benoit Remiche has been charged in his professional capacity as Belgacom's chairman and not as a private individual. Last October, the head of Switzerland's state telephone company was given

a two-month suspended sentence and fined Fr20,000 after being found guilty of disseminating pornography by allowing "sex line" operators to rent telephone circuits.

### Newtons down

FORGET air miles, says Apple Computer. Free Newtons, the company's innovative but pricey electronic notepad, are on offer to anyone who can complete six club-class journeys to France by the end of April. Travellers must fly on Air France and return their

boarding tickets to the airline's head office. Apple recently reduced the official cost of the Newton notepad to £500. Street prices start at £400.

### Wee Dram

JAPAN'S NEC is planning a tie-up with South Korea's Samsung Electronics to develop next-generation 256-megabit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips. The chips, two generations beyond the most advanced memories now being sold, are expected to go on sale in 1998. Each will hold the equivalent of 2,800 pages of text.

### Strategic Use of EDI in the 90s

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# Give me the lowdown on Dirty Harry

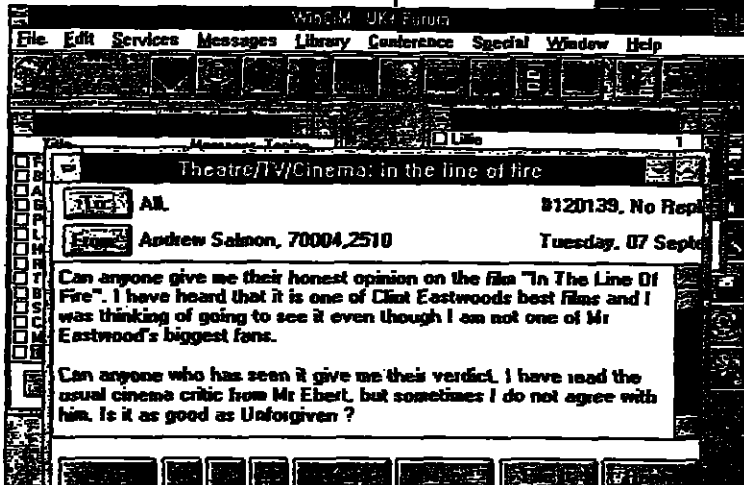
There has been a lot of talk lately about information super-highways where television broadcasters, telecommunications specialists, computer suppliers and entertainment conglomerates will join forces to deluge consumers with programming, products and services via their television set.

Such ideas are still at the planning stage but some of the facilities are already available through a personal computer. By buying a modem plus some communications software, any home or office PC user can link to a variety of online electronic messaging and information services. The most extraordinary of these is the Internet, a vast wide-area network connecting 15 million computers around the world. It originated among the scientific and defence community in America 12 years ago. Many academics and research institutions are linked, and the body of commercial users is growing. Services include information about virtually anything, electronic mail, bulletin boards and the selling of products.

In Britain, a company called Demon Internet offers direct access to the network for a one-off joining fee of £12.50, plus a £10 monthly subscription. Subscribers can log on for the cost of a local call in 12 cities around the country.

A typical user is Jackie Mackay, who uses the Demon service to mail text, graphics, spreadsheets and diagrams generated on a Next computer to colleagues with whom she is collaborating on an academic project. "I work on my own in a tiny village, so the network is an important link to

Pat Sweet on how PC users can get services and advice via the phone



A PC user's message to other computer users, seeking views of the

outside world," she says. "It is a powerful form of communication. When I'm prospecting for work, I've found that if I use E-mail it puts me on the desk of someone I'd never normally be able to contact because there's usually a secretary between them and the world."

The Internet network is a loose grouping rather than a formal structure. Claims that it is "anarchic" are usually countered with the comment

that it is not as organised as that. For potential users who want more help in using its facilities, two of the public online information services now also provide a gateway to Internet.

Compuserve originated in the US and has more than 1.5 million members worldwide, 30,000 of them in Britain. A starter pack, including the necessary communications software for popular PCs, costs £23; basic charges start at a £6 a month

membership fee, plus usage time. CIX (CompuLink Information Exchange), a UK service with about 10,000 members, has a one-time registration fee of £25 and usage charges of between £2.40 and £3.60 an hour. Type "join times", for example, and you will enter The Times conference area.

As well as electronic mail, these three companies provide other services. Internet enables users to access a range of specialist databases and library services.

Compuserve offers a news clipping service of major national, international and trade publications, plus up-to-the-minute weather reports and sports details. Encyclopaedias, research papers, a health database, Stock Exchange prices and business statistics and analysis are online. Forum or conference areas are used to swap opinions or request information.

If you are undecided about whether to go on a particular film, for example, then a message asking for opinions on it is likely to result in several swift replies.

It is also possible to place "buy" and "sell" orders with Wall Street discount brokers through Compuserve or hook into three airline reservation systems and check travel times, flight restrictions and make bookings.

Compuserve's Electronic Mall makes it possible to buy anything from fruit to a car simply by tapping into the PC and ordering from more than 110 suppliers. Special interest groups, with restricted access, offer advice on everything from the latest software releases to keeping tropical fish.

Demon Internet: 081-349 0063, Compuserve 0734 391064, CIX 081-390 8446, Pippex 0223 424616

Clint Eastwood in the film *In The Line Of Fire* with Reno Russo

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## Sony tries anew with Minidisc

Next month Sony will start selling a new generation of Minidisc machines that the company hopes will change the fortunes of what have been disappointing sales of the new digital audio format.

Minidisc stores near-CD quality sound on a 2.5-in disc. Some players will also record so that discs can be used and re-used like audio tape. Sony is still hoping the Minidisc might become a replacement for the analogue compact cassette, which is more than 30 years old.

Minidisc was launched with great fanfare in late 1992, but sales have been at best poor, some retailers describe them as "disastrous". Sony says that 400,000 Minidisc machines

have been distributed worldwide, although it is estimated that only half of these have actually been sold. By comparison, about 600,000 CD players were sold in Britain alone last year. Although the Minidisc uses laser technology like the CD, the formats are not compatible.

New players will include portable Walkman-style units, half the size of the first-generation models. One of the new Minidisc portables weighs about 100g with battery and fits in a shirt pocket.

The latest machines also use improved battery technology to more than double playing time to up to seven hours with long-life batteries says the company. Other companies, including Sharp and JVC, are also planning to launch improved Minidisc recorders.

Philips and Matsushita (the parent company of Panasonic and Technics) have launched the Digital Compact Cassette (DCC). It is another digital format designed to supersede today's audio cassette. This stores CD-quality sound on a tape and is also partly compatible with analogue cassettes. DCC decks can play both analogue and the new digital tapes, although

a good quality personal stereo. Pre-recorded Minidiscs cost the same as CDs while a one-hour blank disc sells for about £9. Philips has halved the price of its DCC decks from £500 to £250 although its pre-recorded tapes cost the same as CDs and blank DCC cassettes are about £5 each.

Matthew Simmons, Samsung's marketing manager, says: "The problem is that many people are quite happy to record their CDs on to a cheap tape and take it outside. It does not matter if they drop the tape or get sand in it — it's cheap enough to be almost disposable. The new systems are just too expensive for such treatment."

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DCC cassettes will not play in ordinary tape machines. Philips claims to have sold 150,000 DCC decks worldwide, but sluggish sales have caused some record stores to exchange their DCC tapes for CDs.

Electronics companies argue that consumers are now used to CD's high-quality digital sound and no longer find the hissy, muffled sound of audio cassettes acceptable. But it seems consumers may put other factors above digital sound quality, not least price.

Sony and Philips admit the price of their systems will have to fall heavily before they become mass-market formats.

Sony's new portable Minidisc player still costs £350, compared with £50 for

have been distributed worldwide, although it is estimated that only half of these have actually been sold. By comparison, about 600,000 CD players were sold in Britain alone last year. Although the Minidisc uses laser technology like the CD, the formats are not compatible.

New players will include portable Walkman-style units, half the size of the first-generation models. One of the new Minidisc portables weighs about 100g with battery and fits in a shirt pocket.

The latest machines also use improved battery technology to more than double playing time to up to seven hours with long-life batteries says the company. Other companies, including Sharp and JVC, are also planning to launch improved Minidisc recorders.

Philips and Matsushita (the parent company of Panasonic and Technics) have launched the Digital Compact Cassette (DCC). It is another digital format designed to supersede today's audio cassette. This stores CD-quality sound on a tape and is also partly compatible with analogue cassettes. DCC decks can play both analogue and the new digital tapes, although

a good quality personal stereo. Pre-recorded Minidiscs cost the same as CDs while a one-hour blank disc sells for about £9. Philips has halved the price of its DCC decks from £500 to £250 although its pre-recorded tapes cost the same as CDs and blank DCC cassettes are about £5 each.

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## The waste mountain of old new tech grows bigger

Concern is growing about computers and the throwaway factor

Ask an information technology manager what happens to his company's waste and you are unlikely to get the full story. Paper may have found its way into the conscious recycling loop but redundant computer equipment and their consumables have traditionally been of little interest once they pass their sell-by date.

Despite the growth of "recyclable" claims among manufacturers most old electrical equipment in Britain still ends up at landfill sites — an annual stockpile of about six million

items which, says the Centre for the Exploitation of Science and Technology, could be worth £50 million. Add to this consumables such as the two million printer cartridges that find their way to rubbish dumps each year and it comes as little surprise that the electronic waste mountain has begun to attract attention.

The Government's response has been to put the onus of responsibility on manufacturers. The Industry Council for Electronic Equipment Recycling (Icer), which represents big companies in the industry, is charged with producing a viable recycling scheme by July.

One of the few IT companies to turn the waste issue to commercial advantage is Kyocera, a Japanese company and Icer member that trumpets the twin virtues of ecology

and economy through its cartridge-free Ecosys printer.

Kyocera's claim that Ecosys is a waste-reducing, cheaper-to-run breakthrough arises from the fact that instead of disposable cartridges — costing, it says, an average £65 a time — the printer, which costs from £1,550, uses only toner thanks to a long-life silicon drum.

But, according to Living Earth, an environmental charity, for all the claims that IT is about to enter a golden age of "collect, re-use and recycle", the gap between talk and reality remains significant. The charity's research indicates that only 2 per cent of cartridges are actually collected for recycling, the rest being victims of a sort of printer lobotomy which leave all the machine's clever bits — plastics, rubber, aluminium, and brass — destined for the rubbish heap.

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# Computer giant opens a body shop

Britain's biggest computer maker has set up a recruitment and placement agency for self-employed computer professionals. The agency, part of ICL Enterprises, will make its first public appearance today at the Contractor Show in London. This is the first time that a UK-based computer maker has turned its hand to the full-scale services of a recruitment agency.

The ICL subsidiary will take on the well-established specialists of the recruitment field head-on. It hopes to do £50 million worth of business in its first year.

David Sillitoe, director of the new agency, says: "As they emerge from recession, companies are looking at their fixed costs. They will also look at how they maintain control over variable costs, and that will focus on flexibility of employment. Perhaps 70 per cent of their information technology staff will be employees, but they will look for flexibility in other areas of the work."

Tony Coombes, professional services director of Coventry-based systems house and recruitment agency Systems Resources, agrees that the recession has caused companies to look more closely at how they use freelance talent but, not surprisingly, doubts whether

## David Guest reports on the Contractor Show and considers the prospects for ICL's venture into the freelance market

this new competitor can cash in. "The first question I would ask is whether they have the expertise. And since they plan to do the whole shooting match, they are bound to want higher margins to finance it all. Companies like us who have been in the business a long time will undercut them."

Mr Coombes detects one significant factor in ICL's favour. "The advantage they have is that every ICL freelance in the country will think they had better be on ICL's database." ICL itself argues that it can appeal to contractors outside the ICL sphere.

The company has espoused open systems and makes much of its willingness to undertake project work with other suppliers' hardware. It is almost certain, though, that the agency will initially be perceived as a body shop for ICL specialists.

Mr Sillitoe predicts that the job market for freelance contractors is going to change. "Contractors will have to look at their 'soft skills' — their presentation abilities, for ex-

ample — as well as their strictly technical ones."

He also argues that changes in work structure are likely. "It is very clear to me that some of the employment practices that are found in America will be coming here. Under associate contracts, for example, people are salaried employees two or three days of the week but are free to sell their skills elsewhere on the other days."

The Contractor Show, which is taking place at the New Connaught Rooms near Covent Garden, was revived last year after a three-year break. It first appeared on the calendar in 1988 and in its prime ran to three events a year. The slump in employment took it out of circulation in the early Nineties, and some exhibitors this year still regard their attendance as experimental. "It is very much a case of 'if we're not happy with it, we'll not be there next year,'" Mr Coombes said.

At the show, ICL's new service

will have to stand comparison with some of the biggest names in the field. Systems Resources, Computer People, Hunter Skill, Esprit Systems and more than 30 other organisations have booked space and many will be seeking to add names to their databases of skilled IT workers. The organiser's own Rex online database, launched last year and in use by 8,500 contractors, will be on show.

Mr Sillitoe claims that one of the features of the agency's service that will stand out is a computerised skills and requirements matching system. "It doesn't cover only hard skills — the ability to program in C++ or whatever, but also clusters of skills in the context of an employment history," he says.

"I wouldn't say that the launch of this agency will encourage people to go freelance but I think now is a good time for people to think about where their careers are going. A lot of people have been made redundant in the past couple of years and they are considering setting themselves up as limited companies and selling their talent. The opportunities are there to make a good living."

● The Contractor Show is on at the New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2, today and tomorrow. Further information: 0344 2393



David Sillitoe: "People will be salaried two or three days of the week and then free to sell their skills"

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**POP page 34**  
Caitlin Moran has a message for those who yearn hopelessly after rock gods: go for it

# ARTS

**POP page 35**  
The essential album for cutting a rug comes to you courtesy of Inspiral Carpets



## Dilly-Dali on the way

**Richard Cork**  
uncovers the young surrealist at the Hayward

**S**killful, outrageous and impishly unashamed, Dali's finest work seems to issue from a single-minded imagination. His defiant belief in the potency of even the most perverse dreams has won him astonishing popularity, far exceeding the hopes of the sweltering 16-year-old student who declared in his diary: "Perhaps I'll be despised and misunderstood, but I'll be a genius, a great genius, I am sure of it."

The adolescent who wrote those crowing words in 1920 would, however, be chronically unsure of his own identity for a number of years to come. Most artists are impressionable when their careers begin, but the Hayward Gallery's survey of *Salvador Dali: The Early Years* proves just how unfocused the aspiring young painter really was. Benefiting from an abundance of new research, and pictures long hidden away by the artist himself, the exhibition reveals Dali as a far less assured personality than the charismatic showman he presented to the world.

Concentrating only on the decade after he penned his puffed-up teenage prophecy, the survey brings together much of the work Dali produced as he moved from obscure studentship to full-blown surrealist success.

Dali was determined and hard-working, quick to befriend the most outstanding of his contemporaries at the *Residencia de Estudiantes* in Madrid. Soon after joining this elite intellectual community in 1922, he forged close alliances with the youthful Buñuel and Lorca, who shared his sense of boundless ambition. But while Dali won their respect—and gained an early reputation when he was expelled from art school for rebelling against his teachers—his work from that period testifies to a surprisingly indecisive talent.

In one mood, he paid homage to a Renaissance hero in the *Self-Portrait with "Raphaelesque" Neck*. Swivelling towards the viewer against a sunlit coastal setting, Dali's elongated head openly identifies with a Raphael self-portrait in the Uffizi. He was not alone in declaring such a loyalty: Wyndham Lewis had painted a *Portrait of the Artist as the Painter Raphael* a year earlier, and both men must have been affected by the widespread desire for a consoling "return to order" after the horror of the First World War. But the comforts of tradition struggled in Dali's overheated



Self-Portrait with "Raphaelesque" Neck, painted in 1922—but already the comforts of tradition struggled in Dali with more restless strategies

mind with more restless strategies. Even his *Raphaelesque* self-portrait has a bizarre quality, suggesting that he saw himself as a swan preening before a seascape bunched by his reflected glory.

Only a year later, though, he portrayed himself as a sober radical, dressed in a workaday blue shirt against a Cubist flurry of collaged fragments.

The flirtation with Cubism did not last long. He soon reverted to a classical idyll, coming perilously near touristic kitsch in a seashore view of Port Aiguier. Dali bent this style to sterner purposes in a four-square portrait of his bulky friend Buñuel, frowning as he looms before an early deserted village which prefigures the arid locations of Dali's surrealist pictures. On the whole, though, classicism excludes too much of his wider, more obsessive side. Dali also vied with his fellow-countryman Zurbarán in a minutely observed *Basket of Bread*, where sacramental

overtures lend gravitas to the image. But piety, for such an irreverent artist, could never be an abiding source of strength.

He came closer to his forte in the same year, by painting a hefty female figure stretched out on some rocks. Is she pinioned in agony, like a martyr awaiting her final ordeal, or

communing ecstatically with the elements? Dali leaves the question open, thereby generating a riddle-like sense of strangeness which nags at us long after the picture has been viewed.

Even now, in 1994, the artistically promiscuous Dali could not settle on a coherent course. With bewildering speed, he switched to a more clangorous idiom in his large *Barcelona Mannequin*. The rasping influence of Picasso can be detected here, as Dali plays with the double image of a prostitute and a shop-window dummy. But the inescapable Picasso proves a more durable stimulus in other large canvases, such as

*Homage to Erik Satie*. For all Dali's precocious bravura, the 22-year-old was still dominated by other men's examples. The Paris dealer Pierre Loeb pinpointed the problem when he turned Dali down and told him, in 1927, that "you are still veering too rapidly from one influence to another and I am waiting for the opening up of your own personality".

But the artist's admirers were soon vindicated. In that same year, a painting called *Gadget and Hand* suddenly pitched them into a different, startlingly irrational world. Dominated by a hybrid apparition, half human and half crystalline structure, this momentous painting finally hits on the idea of art as outright hallucination. While a woman's headless torso glides through the air near a rearing horse, a mysterious scarlet growth erupts from the top of the dominant form.

Dali did not take long to realise that *Gadget and Hand* had announced the "paranoiac-critical" method which he would make his own. Apart from another uncertain moment in 1928, when he became briefly enthralled by Max Ernst's work, his future path was now defined.

The Hayward exhibition

lacks Dali's first large-scale surrealist masterpiece, *The Great Masturbator*, now in Madrid. But enough has been assembled here to prove that, by 1930, the uncertain young eclectic had cast aside all his inhibitions and flowered into a macabre, flashy and maddeningly memorable virtuoso,

whose poster-size nightmares still haunt a million bed-sitters across the world.

● *Salvador Dali: The Early Years* at the Hayward Gallery (071-928 3144) until May 30 (sponsored by Banco Bilbao Vizcaya). Richard Cork will review the companion show at the Hayward, "Unbound", next Tuesday.

“Perhaps I’ll be despised, but I’ll be a genius, I am sure of it”

**THEATRE: Cartoon characters locked in an unreal frame**

## Irish pride and prejudice

**Paddywack Cockpit**

**I**t is probably neither here nor there that Daniel Magee, the Belfast-based author of this play, was once a member of Sinn Féin, was interned for being "politically involved" in the Seventies, and still counts himself a republican. Certainly, his *Paddywack* seems less concerned to make propaganda for the IRA than to accuse the British of mentally travestying the Irish. The irony is that he suffers from a mutation of the very disease he is diagnosing. He condemns those who regard other people as caricatures, yet tends to wield a pretty thick black pencil when he himself comes to create character.

How many lodging houses are to be found in Kilburn, of all places, like the one in which his protagonist briefly settles? True, the landlady (Doreen Andrew) is a tolerant sort, or at least wants to preside over a trouble-free zone; but if her two principal residents are typical of the place, the local laundrette must do a roaring business washing white sheets and conical hats. Brian (a



Damien (James Nesbitt) and Brian (Brian Croucher)

goofy obnoxious Brian Croucher) blithely assumes that all right-thinking people share his loathing for "wogs", meaning the non-English Michael (Michael O'Hagan) deals with his own embarrassing Irishness by exorcising Paddy and advocating the death penalty for the IRA.

They share the house with feeble Colin (Richard Trahair), who thinks of himself as Orwell in the slums and generally represents namby-

from Ireland, they project their fears and dreams on him, somewhat after the manner of the slum-dwellers in O'Casey's *Shadow of a Gunman*. For Brian and (eventually) Michael, he is an evil bomber. For Colin and (especially) Annette, he is a romantic freedom fighter. The shipping clerk, for that is all he is, is duly sacrificed to their collective prejudices in a scene perhaps meant to suggest it is a bit hypocritical of the English to complain of Irish violence.

Magee can write lively, even funny dialogue, but his play needs work. Who, for instance, is the mysterious Damien? Why does so bright and articulate a chap come to England and then take a dead-end job? Since the question is never addressed, the suspicion is that he is in London for two reasons. One is to give voice to his author's feelings about the failure of the English to understand Irish history, frustration and anger. The other is to become a nice convenient butt for English racism. Neither, I fear, makes him or the play fully real.

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POP ON FRIDAY: The weekend starts here

# Carpets show how to cut a rug

NEW RELEASES: David Sinclair on the triumph of taste over hype that has seen Inspiral Carpets prosper

## INSPIRAL CARPETS

*Devil Hopping* (Cow/Mute DUNG25CD)  
INSPIRAL Carpets haven't done badly for a band with no particular image or defining characteristic other than a spectacularly silly name.

But, having had the good fortune to get started in Manchester when that was the fashionable place to be, they have stuck to the job in hand with greater tenacity than their more flamboyant contemporaries, and are now reaping the rewards.

*Devil Hopping*, their fourth album in little more than four years, is an engaging collection of songs that tend to romp along as a sprightly clip. Fastest of all is the bracing, punkish surge of their current hit single "I Want You", where furiously clanging guitars and clattering drums fuse into a glorious maelstrom of noise underpinning a lyric about "climbing aboard a white-knuckle ride". On the album version Mark E. Smith's ranting vocal is replaced by the more orthodox singing of Tom Hingley, and the song sounds all the better for it.

Hingley also turns in fine performances on "Flutoman" and "Uniform", numbers that are haunted by the spirit of Julian Cope, right down to the eminently hummable choruses with words that are too awkward to sing along to.

On other tracks, notably the band's previous hit, "Saturn 5", it is Clint Boon's organ that dominates, a sound with its provenance located somewhere between the playing of Dave Greenfield of the Stranglers and Sooty and Sweep. Add a few loping, dancelloor beats, as on the irresistible "Party In The Sky", stir in yet more slightly dopey lyrics about starshine, secret agents and goldfishes, and voilà: an album designed for modern rock fans, with some attractively retro touches, but well abreast of the dance-orientated mood of the times.

## THE PROCLAIMERS

*Hit The Highway* (Chrysalis 82860 2)  
THE Reid twins from Auchtermuchty return to the fray, their exuberance at conquering America evidently tempered by the more spiritual demands of life closer to home. Since their last album, *Sunshine On Leith*, was released in 1988, Charlie's marriage has hit the rocks and

Craig has become the proud father of a baby girl.

Both episodes have played a part in shaping the songs on *Hit The Highway*, most obviously "Your Childhood", a sentimental ode to the little girl who's got her daddy acting like a clown, and "Shout Shout", a sour but sage observation on the dynamics of marital strife with a lyric that dovetails neatly into the wonderfully politically incorrect "Don't Turn Out Like Your Mother".

Elsewhere the mood turns more serious and the tone verges on the self-righteous as, true to their name, the duo offers several unfashionably plangent statements of religious faith: "The More I Believe", "The Light" and an overwrought old gospel song by the Consolers called "I Want To Be A Christian".

The brothers' broad Scottish accents and call-and-response vocal arrangements dip and soar above instrumentation that is part-Nashville (steel guitars, mandolins) and part-Memphis (horn section).

For the most part it all gells happily enough, but things get fairly ridiculous on their version of an old Otis Redding song, "These Arms Of Mine", where the arrangement finally buckles under the weight of cultural schizophrenia.

## SAINT ETIENNE

*Tiger Bay* (Heavenly HVNLP8CD)

ONE of the more stylish products of the acid house revolution, Saint Etienne materialised at the turn of the decade promising mystery, glamour and the perfect pop thrill. It's an arty, anti-formula formula that brooks no suggestion of anyone's hands being dirtied by banging about on guitars and drums. Instead, the group's music is subject only to the limitations of the newest studio/key-board technology, Sarah Cracknell's sensual voice and their own imaginations.

It's a seductive concept, but in practice *Tiger Bay* lacks substance and quickly becomes subject to drift. True, there is the beguiling groove of "Like A Motorway", where elements of Kraftwerk and New Order are fused with a series of delightfully jaunty percussive breaks. But more typical are fluffy little interludes like "On The Shore", a gentle reggae pulse overlaid with fragments of vocals about

"floating higher", or "Urban Clearway", the weightless instrumental that opens the album with great swirls of strings that sound as if they were lifted from the theme from *Dallas*. There's plenty of top-quality soufflé, but not a lot of fibre.

## VARIOUS ARTISTS

*A Tribute To Curtis Mayfield* (Warner Bros. 9362-45500)

WHEN you think of all the hellraisers who routinely inhabit the rock 'n' roll stages of the world, it seems a savage irony that it should be such a gentle, honourable soul as Curtis Mayfield who was at work beneath the lighting rig that topped at a New York concert in 1990. Now quadri-



The Fall's Mark E. Smith (second from left) is on the single, but off the album version of Inspiral Carpets's "I Want You"

plegic, Mayfield is barely able to muster enough breath to sing one verse and a couple of harmony choruses of "Let's Do It Again", his only contribution to an album of his own songs, recorded by other artists.

Luckily, there is no shortage of performers willing to do the job for him (once, at least), and there is everything here from the soul diva outpourings of Whitney Houston ("Look Into Your Heart") and Aretha Franklin ("The Makings Of

You"), through to rockier interpretations by Bruce Springsteen (a spooky version of "Gypsy Woman"), Eric Clapton (a delicate "You Must Believe Me") and Rod Stewart (the *Unplugged* rendition of "People Get Ready").

It is a shame that neither of Mayfield's biggest British hits, "Move On Up" and "Superfly", are included, but the album stands nonetheless as a glowing testament by his peers — and fans — to a sadly missed talent.

## NEW WAVES

PJ AND Smiley of *Shut Up & Dance* have always operated with two objectives in mind: making good, functional music and cutting what they see as the nonsense impeding that simple ambition.

For some time, they led the charge to produce tough, intelligent dance music cut and pasted from samples of other artists' records. Then they released a song entitled "Raving I'm Raving". Spotted for a transgression of copyright law during its pre-release promotional phase, this irresistibly commercial tune went straight into the singles chart at No 2. With an injunction imposed upon them not to press more than the initial 50,000 run, their potentially huge hit dropped straight out of the chart after one week, and they went bust.

So, end of story? Not quite. Less than two years later, they have dusted themselves off, launched *Shut Up & Dance* Music and in a week will release a new EP. Radio 1 is playing the exuberant "Morning Joy" and the clubs are happy with "Hip Hip" and "Hands in the Air". The lawyers will be listening for samples. The rest of us are happy to have them back.

DAVID TOOP

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# Briatore pushes on accelerator of change



Briatore: ambitious

Flavio Briatore peddles a beguiling brand of iconoclasm from his bar high above the Chelsea embankment. His stark and powerful arguments for the improvement of grand prix racing build around a penthouse that oozes opulence and shows his worship of the literary and artistic establishments.

After less than five years of involvement in Formula One, Briatore has become one of the sport's most powerful players. As managing director, he has transformed Benetton from gauche arriviste into genuine world championship contender, but his ambitions extend beyond winning titles.

Briatore has given himself until 1996 to win the constructors' championship for Benetton or retire from the scene but many feel that with his leading driver, Michael Schumacher, improving every season and Ford providing the team with a more powerful new engine, Benetton may press Williams close this year.

Still, Briatore is at his most enthusiastic discussing the politics of Formula

Oliver Holt on the ideas proposed by a man who believes Formula One officials should take the entertainment road

One. He was instrumental in forcing through this season's rule changes, which he says have cut his costs by 20 per cent, and foremost among his radical ideas is the introduction of a reverse grid. The system would see drivers given points for their qualifying positions but those who achieved the fastest lap times would start at the back of the grid for the race.

"I am a businessman," Briatore said this week. "I am not interested in devoting myself to Formula One for 20 years but I think the potential is very strong and that only 20 per cent of the potential is being used. All the team owners are orientated towards the technical side rather than the entertainment side and this is a big fault."

"Every meeting that I go to, people are talking about pistons and suspension systems. Nobody goes to a race to see that kind of thing. Nobody's

interested in active or passive systems. Nobody ever comes up to me after a race and says 'Flavio, your active system is so bloody beautiful'. People come to see Schumacher and Senna racing each other.

"I do not care about the past. Television has changed our business because 150 million people watch the races and you have to sell the image and the package. Benetton is in Formula One because the sport represents global communications. There are the Olympics every four years and there is the Super Bowl in America for people eating popcorn, but the only thing is F1. It mixes power, speed, human beings fighting together, and noise. This is what people want."

Briatore, aged 43, was born near Turin but made his reputation as one of the architects of Benetton's clothing success in North America. He was

## McRae withdraws after engine stalls

COLIN McRae withdrew from the Portugal Rally yesterday when his Subaru stalled on a hill on the third of the four-day event. The Scot, holding fifth place, 1min 53sec behind the leader, Juha Kankkunen, of Finland, could not complete the 25th stage. The winner from last year, Francois Delecour, of France, and Andrea Aghini, of Italy, have also been forced out of the event.

Kankkunen was running 43 seconds ahead of his teammate, Didier Auriol, of France, whose five wins in the first seven special sections took him past Massimo Biasion, of Italy, in a Ford Escort Cosworth.

Biasion said: "I am trying everything possible to stay in contact with Kankkunen but he seems able to make the times without too much trouble." The nine-second gap between the Frenchman and the Italian was expected to increase in the final two specials, setting up a potential Japanese double at the race finish tonight.

## Forest move for Lee

FOOTBALL: Nottingham Forest, relegated from the FA Premier League last season, will today strengthen their challenge for promotion by signing the Southampton United striker, Jason Lee. Frank Clark, the Nottingham Forest manager, held talks with the 22-year-old former Lincoln City forward last night after the two clubs had agreed on a fee of around £200,000.

The deal is expected to be completed in time for Lee to make his debut in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division game with Luton Town at the City Ground tomorrow, when Forest will again be without the injured Lee Glover, Stan Collymore and Robert Rosario.

## Hendry chases treble

SNOOKER: Stephen Hendry attempts to put the 50 quarter-final defeat against Alan McManis, his fellow Scot, in the International Open behind him when the Klosser Thailand Open begins its nine-day run at the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok, tomorrow. The world champion, winner of the Dubai Classic and the European Open, would be the first player to triumph in all three of professional snooker's overseas ranking events in the same season if he collects the winner's cheque next Saturday.

## Germany look strong

FENCING: Italy and Germany should dispute the leading places in the Challenge Martini World Cup series epee competition in London tomorrow. Germany, winners for the past two years, have entered 16 fencers, including Arnd Schmitt, the former Olympic champion ranked No 3 in the world, and Marc Steffens, who is ranked seventh. The event is among the largest and toughest on the world circuit. Britain has entered a squad of 24, led by Steven Paul who, at almost 40, remains the country's leading international.

## Marshall's new test

SQUASH: Peter Marshall, the British champion who lost the Leekes Classic final in Cardiff last week to Brett Martin, the Australian, will try to atone for his defeat when he plays Martin in an England versus Australia "Test match" at Lambeth Hall sports club in Hull on March 17. Marshall, Suzanne Horner, the British women's champion, and Chris Walker, the England No. 2, will play Martin, Sarah Fitzgerald and Rodney Eyles in a format drawn from the successful European two-man-one-woman competition.

## Irresistible force

SCHOOLS SPORT: Cheltenham College is proving itself to be an irresistible force in the world of schools' hockey and, more alarmingly for its rivals, is enjoying success down through the ages from seniors to under-14s. All told, the school has played 30 matches this season and lost just once, winning 26 games and drawing three. Goals from Mark Inglis and Tim Leverton helped to preserve the record as Cheltenham's first team beat a determined Radley College 2-0 last weekend.

## Indoor attraction

TRIATHLON: Many of the world's best triathletes will be competing indoors at the Palais Omnisport in Paris this weekend. This is the second year that the French have hosted the Triathlon Indoor Supersprint but they have moved the event from Bordeaux to the more glamorous Bercy centre. With prize-money of 420,000 francs (£48,500), many triathletes have interrupted their winter training to take part. However, Brad Bevan, of Australia, the defending champion, is unavailable as he is competing at home.

## Clearing operation

CYCLING: One hundred and forty tons of builders' aggregate (small stones and rubble used as packing material in drainage work) had still to be cleared from the Aintree motor racing circuit yesterday to enable the 50-miles Eddie Stoen's handicap event, in its 33rd year, to be held on Sunday. Ken Matthews, the organiser, said that he had been assured by circuit officials that the remaining seven heaps of rubble just beyond the lap finish would be cleared in time for the race, which has an entry of 200.

## South Africa hoping Cronje can maintain impressive form

# Australians bemused by pitch for first Test

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN JOHANNESBURG

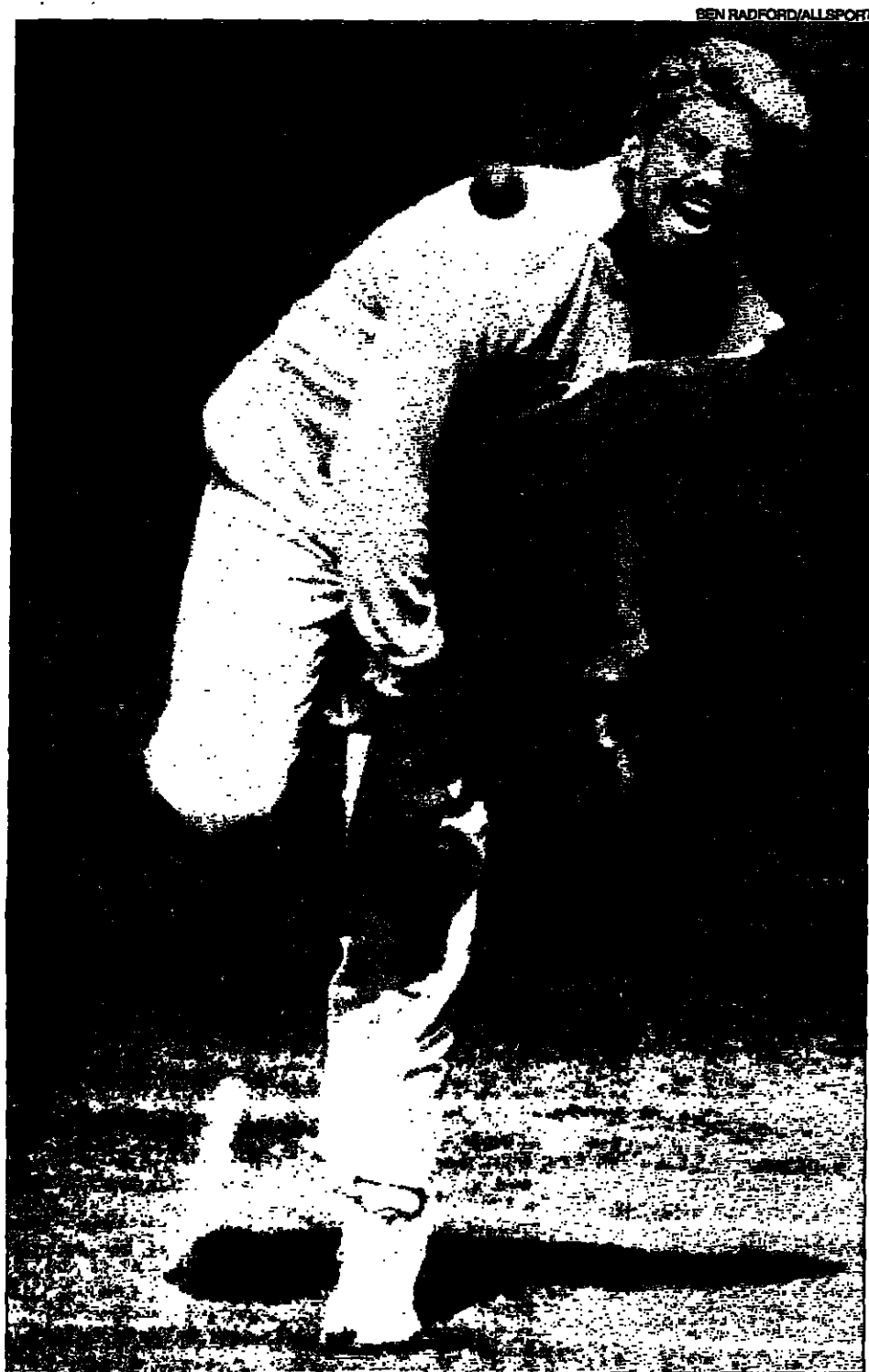
SO FAR, so good. Australia's nine-week tour of South Africa has escaped any of the more disruptive consequences of the general election, and the four one-day internationals have been closely fought before full houses. Today, the first of the three Tests — all to be played in March — starts here at the lavishly refurbished Wanderers ground.

It could be said that the credibility of Test cricket in South Africa is on the line. There were times when the Test matches between South Africa and India, not much over a year ago, were played almost in a vacuum, although after all those years of South Africa's isolation you would have expected every ground to be packed.

Happily, this coming Test series has been given a boost both by South Africa's success so far in the one-day internationals (they have taken a 3-1 lead) and the wonderful form of Hansie Cronje, a young, bronzed and handsome Afrikaner. Since the Australians arrived in South Africa, Cronje has batted for over 16 hours against them, scoring 112, 97 (run out), 45 and 50 not out in the one-day internationals, and 44 and 251 (306 balls, 28 fours, four sixes) for Orange Free State. Each time, what is more, the dreaded Shane Warne was playing for the Australians.

In the Test matches Cronje is going to find the pressure turned up, not least because of what will now be expected of him. But for the moment, and for once, Warne has a problem. It is a splendidly unexpected turn of events, bearing in mind the traditional vulnerability of South African batsmen against wrist spin. Clive Grimmett, Bill O'Reilly, Richie Benaud, Johnny Wardle, Roly Jenkins: they have all wrought havoc here in their time.

Without wishing to cast a cloud across South Africa's hopes for Cronje, I cannot



Warne has surprisingly been presented with conditions he is likely to exploit

## Bird and Shepherd on panel

ENGLAND'S International Cricket Council (ICC) panel of umpires for the home Test series against New Zealand and South Africa this summer will be made up of Dickie Bird, David Shepherd, Ken Palmer and Nigel Plews, it was announced yesterday. Bird and Shepherd will each stand in two of the six Tests, with Palmer and Plews being allotted one match apiece.

The ICC, which chooses one overseas umpire per Test, is

expected to announce their identities during the next month. For the four one-day internationals, which do not come under ICC jurisdiction, the Test and County Cricket Board has added Mervyn Kitchen, Chris Balderstone, Alan Whitehead and Roy Palmer to the Test panel.

In Dunedin yesterday, Saad Anwar, the Pakistan opener, steered his side to a five-wicket win in a rain-shortened one-day international against New Zealand.

Sealed hit an unbeaten 60 as Pakistan, needing 123 for victory in 30 overs, reached their target with almost four overs to spare.

New Zealand were handicapped by rain delays in their innings, particularly by the second stoppage of two and three quarter hours. They were 32 for one when it began and, on returning, had only 21 overs left to make a reasonable score.

### BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland 110, Boston 98; Detroit 107, Miami 106; Minnesota 100, LA Lakers 97; Chicago 108, San Antonio 98; LA Clippers 118, Charlotte 105.

### FOOTBALL

NEVILLE OWEN: Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0.

### LEAGUE

LEAGUE: Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0.

### CRICKET

CRICKET: Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0.

### PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN: Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0.

### HOCKEY

HOCKEY: Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0.

### ICE HOCKEY

ICE HOCKEY: Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0.

### MOTOR RALLYING

MOTOR RALLYING: Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0.

### RUGBY LEAGUE

RUGBY LEAGUE: Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0.

### THE TIMES

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## Bentt lines up Bruno as lucrative substitute for Bowe

By SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANK Bruno is very much in the sights of Michael Bentt, the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion. If Bentt's proposed bout with Riddick Bowe in the summer falls through, Bruno will almost certainly be his next opponent after the defence of his title against Herbie Hide, from Norwich, at Millwall Football Club's ground in London on March 19.

Bentt and Bruno would meet in June or July, most likely at Wembley, and they could expect to share around £25 million. That was the thinking of Stan Hoffman, Bentt's manager, yesterday.

He said at a press conference in London's Docklands, to publicise the Bentt-Hide bout, that the champion's American promoter, Bob Arum, had already been approached by Jarvis Astarie, a partner of Mickey Duff, Bruno's adviser, and vice-chairman of Wembley Stadium.

A bout with Bruno would not only be a lucrative one for Bentt — he is receiving only \$300,000 (about £200,000) for his defence against Hide — but it could also give promoters a better idea of Bentt's true worth. Lennox Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion, had to struggle for five rounds before stopping Bruno in six. Could Bentt do better?

Hoffman said: "If Bowe's fight with us in June is put off, then Bruno is perfect for us in June or July. The Bruno fight, in my opinion, is eight times this fight. I see it at Wembley Stadium. We have a contract with Millwall but they will have to improve their offer."

Before the purse for the bout with Hide was cut, when ITV and ABC television dropped out, Bentt had agreed to pay the £10,000 fine imposed on him for brawling with Hide at a Knightsbridge hotel. Now, he has said he will be appealing against the fine.

Bentt, who has been training in Las Vegas, will finish his preparations in London, at the Henry Cooper gym in the Old Kent Road. Eddie Mustapha Muhammad, his trainer and one of the United States' leading trainers, will join him soon. Bentt, looking more the businessman than a bruiser in his bow-tie and suit yesterday, said he had got over a bout of flu and a giddy spell he suffered in Las Vegas.

After training one day, he dropped on one knee and told Hoffman his head was spinning. He was taken to hospital, where he was kept overnight for observation. "It was nothing," Hoffman said. "Just the effect of flu and medication."

## Wainwright aiming to make the grade

Alix Ramsay reports on the tennis professional with the double goal of academic achievement and a higher ranking

This is a nerve-racking time for a sixth-form student. The weeks are ticking by. A levels loom and there is work to finish, revision to start and panic to be kept at bay.

Half-term provides some respite, but not for Mandy Wainwright. While her school friends retreated to their rooms with a smug air of books and good intentions, Wainwright sped north in search of world ranking points at the Newcastle Challenger tournament.

At No 225 in the world, she is Britain's third-highest ranked female tennis player and, at 17, is trying to hold on to her world place and pass her exams in French, Latin and History.

Her stay in Newcastle was short-lived, as she lost in the second round. Still, Wainwright is not concerned, it is a few points gleaned and her first match in nearly two months.

Combining a tennis career and schoolwork is no laughing matter. She takes her rackets and kit to school and her school books to tournaments to try to catch up on her reading. Her success in both fields is, according to her mother, Irene, due to her single-minded attitude and determination.

For a 17-year-old in the middle of the most stressful time of her school life, she is remarkably level-headed. Apart from her mobile phone and her obvious talent, she is just the same as any other schoolgirl.

Years ago, she struck a deal with her headmaster, Dr Peter Southern, at Bancroft's School in Woodford Green, Essex. If she kept her grades up, he would not mind her taking time off school for tennis. So far the arrangement has worked well for both parties.

It was Wainwright's decision to stay on for A levels. She knew if she left school at 16 she would never go back. "Two years more isn't that long really," she said. "I think I would be bored by now if I had left school and started full-time tennis at that age."

It was a decision that led to conflict with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and her mother was incensed when Mark Cox, a Cambridge graduate and former British No 1, announced to a group of tennis parents that the only way to play seriously was to leave school at 16.

With the well-documented saga of Jennifer Capriati's fall



Wainwright must balance the demands of A levels and her tennis career. Photograph: Des Jensen

from grace and decision to go back and finish her high school education, Wainwright feels she has made the right choice. Her father, John, agrees. "If you start out a little later, you are more mature to cope with the pressure," he said.

"I think 16 is about the right age to let people on the tour," Wainwright said. "It doesn't matter when you get into the top ten provided you get there. If the Women's Tennis Association allows them in too young, the kids may be stars at a young age but it

won't last, they won't stay in the sport." The Capriati connection is tenuous. Although they share the same age and career, they are separated by a gulf as wide as the Atlantic in terms of ranking, finance and personality. On court and in

conversation, Capriati never seemed unduly laden by the burden of academe and, at 13, when they met, Wainwright had just had her training grant cut by 50 per cent to £250 and Capriati had just signed a \$3 million clothing contract. The money would be

nice but the thought brings a wry smile to Wainwright's face. "Now she is rebelling totally," she said. "She's pretty immature but she's missed her childhood. When you hear all the stories of the shoplifting and all the other things, it just shows what happens when kids are pressured into tennis."

The Wainwrights are not typical tennis parents. They follow the 15-year-old twins, Rodney and Craig, in their rugby careers as avidly as they watch Mandy and have tried to encourage her by letting her make her own decisions.

"Whether she wins or loses, we are always there," Irene said. "But we never let anyone forget we've got three children, not just Mandy."

Without a bottomless well of funds to pay for coaching and practice courts, much of Wainwright's time has been spent with her father racing around the country after

**'I think I would be bored by now if I had left school and played full-time at 16'**

school trying to find somewhere to play, to the point she spent winter evenings outdoors playing in the snow because the court was available and cheap. Now, with the David Lloyd centre newly opened up the road in Chigwell and with financial help from the LTA and the coaching of Alan Jones, life is a little easier.

Indeed, some of the things John Wainwright campaigned for unsuccessfully a few years ago, like coaches travelling to the juniors, rather than the other way round, are now standard practice.

All that irks the British No 3 is the public's apathy. At Wimbledon last year, Chris Bailey became a household name for losing to Goran Ivanisevic in the second round after a thrilling match on centre court. Wainwright lost at the same stage, to Gloria Pizzichini, but nobody noticed. "You feel that if you do well, you'll get some recognition, but time and time again there is nothing," she said.

Not that Wainwright is complaining. She just becomes more determined. And she hates to lose, even over a family game of Monopoly. "I hate that saying — 'It's not the winning, it's the taking part that counts'. No it isn't winning is all that matters." In the meantime, she has still to win over the A level examiners and there is Latin homework to be done. *Veni, vidi, vici...*

## Grant of £120,000 provides fillip for England

By ALIX RAMSAY

AFTER the disappointing results against Scotland last week, the fortunes of the England women's hockey team have been bolstered by a grant of £120,000 from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts.

So far, the squad has received £60,000 to cover the training costs since last November, with a further £15,000 a month to come leading up to the World Cup in Dublin in July.

It means that once the final squad is announced next week, after the international matches against India, the players can, for the first time, afford to take up to three months off work to concentrate on training.

The players' allowances have been calculated on how much they would lose if they were to take unpaid leave.

For some players, such as Chris Cook, the money has meant the difference between being able to train and not having that privilege.

Based in Cumbria, she travels twice a week to Liverpool to train and play for Hightown. England training meetings at Bisham Abbey mean a round trip of over 600 miles.

In three years, she has clocked up over 100,000 miles to play for her club and country and, in the process, has worn out a Renault 5. Now able to afford a newer model to get her to matches in one piece, she is still surprised at her good fortune.

"It's fantastic news for the girls," Jenny Cardwell, the England team manager, said. "We've never had anything like it before."

"It means the players have the choice of taking leave or working part-time so they can train at the best time for them rather than when they are exhausted after a full day's work."

In the meantime, the squad has a little matter of the National League to negotiate tomorrow. While Simon Coldfield knows they cannot count themselves in the race, lying eight points behind the leaders, Ipswich, in the premier division, their captain, Jane Sixsmith, also knows they can have a say in who takes the title.

Playing Ipswich on Saturday and Slough in the last match of the season, motivation is not a problem. "There's still everything to play for," Sixsmith said.

For Leicester, tomorrow will be make or break as they go to Slough. Having led the league before Christmas, they have now lost their way and anything less than a win will kill off their hopes.

## New faces point way to success

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE old guard has plenty of life yet but it is the new generation of players on show in the John Smith's rugby league international against France in Cardiff tonight that are likely to suggest Wales are better placed than at any time since their rebirth in 1991.

Six months ago, Wales had been not invited to play in the 1995 Centenary World Cup; they had lost Jim Mills, their team manager, in a walkout over the exclusion; and they had Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, championing the cause of outraged Welshmen.

Then the sport's international board happened upon Welsh "personality and patriotism" and reversed its decision. Players with Welsh lineage have been emerging from the woodwork ever since.

For Clive Griffiths, the Wales coach, selection meetings now have a genuine purpose. Although hardly embarrassed by riches, selecting 17 names from 26 rather than shuffling the same 17 faces provides the greatest encouragement for Wales' chances in the World Cup. Furthermore, from being non-starters, they could justly claim one of four seeded places — with England, Australia and New Zealand — after having defeated France in their past three matches.

Griffiths said the biggest handicap was lack of match practice. England could be repaid over Offa's Dyke for a repeat of their meeting in 1992 but matches against Australia in autumn and France next year might be the sum of World Cup preparations for the Welsh.

The match against France tonight will be a welcome homecoming for Jonathan Davies and company. However, the performance of the newcomers will provide the main interest. Mark Perrett, who resolves a long-standing problem at loose forward, and Daio Powell, an exciting young winger, quality by Welsh parentage. Richard Webster is the genuine article but his place as one of four substitutes is more about box office than beating France.

Webster, the most recent defector from rugby union, has not completed a full senior game for Salford since his conversion last October. Like his eight fellow former Wales rugby union internationals, he will make his first appearance back in Cardiff tonight.

France, too, appear to be more solid, thanks to the English influence of Daniel Divet, of Hull, and David Fraisse, of Sheffield Eagles. Unless French resistance has improved markedly, however, Wales should maintain a winning sequence against them at home that stretches back to 1949.

Wales: P Ford (Salford), G Cordle (Bradford Northern), A Bateman (Warrington), J Davies (Warrington, captain), A Sullivan (St Helens), J Griffiths (St Helens), R Ellis (Warrington), D Young (Salford), B Williams (Cardiff), M Jones (Fulham), P Moriarty (Widnes), P Phillips (Warrington), M Parry (Salford), Substitutes: D Powell (Bradford Northern), I Merlow (Walesfield Trinity), A Halsey (Widnes), A Cousens (Cardiff).

France: J Prieon (Widnes), C Silver (St Gaudens), D Fraisse (Sheffield Eagles), D Desplais (Rochester), J Gaudin (St Gaudens), P Pages (Fos), P Enrie (Avignon, captain), F Toulou (Lyon), P Tournelle (Fos), B Long (St Gaudens), D Cabestany (St Gaudens), D Divet (Fos), T Valero (Laznan), Substitutes: E Allen (Cardiff), J Leroy (St Gaudens), C Martini (St Gaudens), A Cousens (Cardiff).

Referee: D Campbell (England). London Crusaders will officially be taken over by Brisbane Broncos next Tuesday.

## Wounded Tiger rebounds from mauling to head trophy hunt

Nicholas Harling reports on the American in line to be named player of the year and his team's attempt to secure a basketball treble

FOR a man who was almost cut before October was out, Tony Holley is having a spectacular season. Considerably, it could end with Thames Valley Tigers completing the treble and Holley being named basketball's player of the year.

The League Trophy has already gone Thames Valley's way. The National Cup will follow tomorrow in the final at Sheffield if Tigers build on their 17-point success over Worthing Bears last month, which staked their claim as favourites for the Budweiser League. A further victory in the championship play-offs at the end of the season would complete a clean sweep of the domestic honours.

The cup final is between the teams defeated in the last two finals by Guildford Kings. Worthing, the runners-up last year, are faltering but the Tigers go from strength to strength, helped by the player whose first few games for them were anything but promising. There was talk after two months of the season that Holley, 25, would be on his way, following in the paths of many higher-paid Americans who failed to make a swift impact with their new clubs.

After successful spells in the first division with Bury Lobos and Doncaster Panthers, both of whom were indebted to Holley for their honours, it did not look, at first, as if the fit gin forward possessed the talent to jump up a grade as well as he jumped for the ball.

"I don't think my confidence level was that high," he recalled. "I was not playing that many minutes and I wasn't on court in tough situations. I remember a match in which Leicester almost beat us yet I spent most of the second half

on the bench." The turning point came in adversity. "We lost at London but, for the first time, I felt confident. Since then, I haven't had a problem," he said.

Since then, too, Tigers have reaped the benefit of the knock-kneed Holley, who believes his inelegance by the

manner in which he gets the better of far taller opponents in the hunt for rebounds. With so many other prolific scorers in the team — Nigel Lloyd, his Barbadian flatmate, Peter Scantlebury, the England captain, and three other Englishmen, Nick Cooke, Michael Hayles and Tony Balogun — it

rarely matters if Holley fails to produce the 20-plus points tallies that were expected of him by his previous clubs. "It's a good thing that I can now go out and score 13 points and we can still go and win by 20 points," he said. The consequence is a big improvement in his relationship with Mike Bett, the Tigers coach. "Everything used to be too serious but now we can laugh about things. Before he used to scream at me."

A product of Troy State University in Alabama, where he gained a BA in criminal justice and a minor in human services, Holley realised when he returned home to Orlando he was never going to play in the same Magic NBA team as Shaquille O'Neal and Anthony Hardaway. "I guess my hunger for that had died at college," he said, his enthusiasm, nevertheless, as bright as ever.

The English game presented a different goal and at Bracknell he found an additional one that will move towards fruition if he subdues his compatriot, Herman Harried, of Worthing, as effectively as he did a fortnight ago. "To say Herman is only going to score nine points again is unlikely," Holley said. "It'll be tough, that's for certain, and I'll have to play a hard game again. I'll have to jump on him early as he tends to drift out of the game when that happens."

Of one thing Holley is sure. After that 17-point reverse last time, Alan Cunningham, the Worthing coach, will have his team properly motivated, none more so than Colin Irish, Cleave Lewis and Steve Nelson, in case Harried fails again. "But we'll be ready for them," Holley said.



Holley, whose Thames Valley Tigers are eyeing success on three fronts, in training at Thorpe, Surrey, yesterday

## Champion talent up and running

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

AN INITIATIVE designed to sharpen Britain's edge in middle distance and distance running, using champions of the past to develop promising talent, will be launched this spring. Five present or former world record-holders — Sebastian Coe, Steve Cram, David Bedford, Brendan Foster and David Moorcroft — are among those who have agreed to take an active role.

The idea is to pair British men and women who have succeeded on the international stage with those showing potential. They will act as mentors but will not interfere with the coach's role. "The delicate part is making sure the relationship between athlete and personal coach remains intact," Frank Dick, Britain's director of coaching, said.

Set against the glorious years of the Seventies and Eighties — Bedford, Foster, Stewart and Moorcroft followed by Coe, Ovett and Cram — Britain's men have performed poorly in recent years. Some success has been enjoyed, such as Rob Denmark's European Cup 5,000 metres win, Matthew Yates's European indoor 1,500 metres triumph and the World Cup marathon win of Richard Nerurkar, but two outdoor world championships and an Olympics have passed without a British medal in men's events from 800 metres to the marathon.

Bedford, who set a 10,000 metres world record in 1973, said: "I have never been debriefed and I do not believe any other stars of the past have." When Charlie Spedding, the last Briton to win an Olympic marathon medal, in

1984, retired in 1991, he said: "One of my biggest disappointments was that after I won a medal in Los Angeles, Britain's first Olympic marathon medal for 20 years, nobody asked how I did it."

Bedford, responsible with Dick for initiating the scheme, added: "We must not allow this experience and knowledge to be lost. In many cases, you have an inexperienced coach and an inexperienced athlete having to find out everything from scratch when that information is on tap."

"The other thing to make sure is that they are setting their goals at the right level. I wonder, for example, how many coaches of 15-year-old aspiring 10,000 metres runners understand that their athletes are going to have to run 20min 30sec by the time they compete in the Olympic Games?" The world record now is 20min 58.38sec.

Although established internationalists such as Curtis Robb may benefit, the scheme is designed for young athletes like Matthew Hibberd, a 1,500 metres runner who, at 20, will be one of the youngest members of Britain's team at the European indoor championships next week.

The British Athletic Federation (BAF) will operate the scheme. Other former athletes helping out include two former European 5,000 metres champions, Ian Stewart (1969) and Bruce Tulloh (1962), Ron Hill, the 1969 European and 1970 Commonwealth marathon champion, Christina Cahill, the 1982 Commonwealth 1,500 metres champion, and Joyce Smith, the former British marathon record-holder.



## Ferguson's accomplished side lacking credible challengers

## Who can stop United's treble charge?

BY PETER BALL

ONLY three teams this century have done the double of winning the League championship and FA Cup in one season. After Manchester United's dismissive 4-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final on Wednesday night, the bookmakers cut the odds against them becoming the first side to do the treble to 11-8.

That is a measure of their domination of English football, for who could argue against them setting such a precedent? Only Aston Villa stand between them and the first trophy, the Coca-Cola Cup, in the final on March 27, they are two games away from returning to Wembley for the FA Cup final, and they hold a seven-point lead in the FA Premier League with a game in hand.

"I came to Manchester United to win medals," Roy Keane said, "and we must have a chance of winning at least a couple this season. I think we're good enough."

The midfield players' three previous visits to Wembley have yielded only one winners' medal, in the Zenith Data Systems Cup, a subject for much mockery in the United dressing-room. He should soon be able to hold his own in the banter.

There is many a slip between cup and lip, as several great teams who unsuccessfully pursued the double, including Sir Matt Busby's pre-war Manchester United, have found. There is little belief in football that United can be halted. They have now gone 34 games without defeat and the question is, can anyone stop the charge?

On a good day, Aston Villa's ageing team might manage it, but the operative word is might. On Wednesday, United won with almost contemptuous ease against one of the few other teams who would think they could give them a game on a good day, and that without Eric Cantona, who is often seen as United's key creative figure.

Of course you would not suggest that they are a better side without Cantona, but the 4-3-3 formation, with two devastating wingers - Banks, Hughes, Ince in the central holding position between the rampaging Keane and McClair, made them look, if anything, more formidable.

Cantona was not the only absentee. Also missing was Lee Sharpe, an England international winger. But will Sharpe get his place back? Kanchelskis is playing brilliantly at the moment, demonstrating United's embarrassment of riches.

The point was not lost on a chastened Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager. "In a semi-final you always think you've got a chance," Francis said afterwards. "But we are talking now about a team which is far better than anything else in the Premiership."

"It is a unique situation. I think they will prove one of the greatest teams ever in this country. They have so many outstanding players. Liverpool at their best worked very, very hard as a team, but this team work very hard, and then they are so young, so athletic, and they have so many individuals who can win a game. If one or two aren't in form, there are another four or five who can win it for them. Liverpool had Dalglish and Rush, who were excellent players, but this team has so many, and there is so much pace in the team."

There are those who will raise their eyebrows at Francis's assertions, and the quality of United's challengers explains the doubts, but the very lack of serious chal-

lengers also testifies to United's excellence. It is hard to remember a side which stood so far above the rest, unless perhaps it was the pre-Munich side, or the Tottenham double-winning side, but in 1957 Spurs were thereabouts and Wolves were emerging in 1961 Burnley challenged Spurs.

In the Sixties there were half a dozen great teams, and even at the height of Liverpool's domination, there was always at least one side pressing them: United have nobody.

"I think they will dominate English football throughout the Nineties," Francis said. "They are getting full houses every week, they are lined up to go to Wembley twice, and that generates so much money that Alex [Ferguson] can go and buy anyone he wants at the end of the season."

If that thought does not discourage the competition enough, Ferguson, the United manager, added his own warning. "We can get better," he said. "We may not peak for another two or three years."

Such a move would outrage the European countries, which would then be certain to put up a rival candidate, such as Bo Johansson, the Swedish president of Uefa.

It was the dispute between Teixeira and Pele, the Brazilian great, that led to Pele not receiving an invitation to the 1994 World Cup draw in Las Vegas last December. Havelange has not allowed the Fifa executive to discuss the controversy.

Havelange has relied largely on the support of African and Asian countries to retain his unchallenged presidency, particularly since he expanded the number of countries taking part in the World Cup finals from 16 to 24, so allowing more Third World countries a chance of glory.

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Kanchelskis, the Manchester United winger, whose brilliant form illustrates the embarrassment of riches at Old Trafford

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## European countries may look to challenge Havelange

BY JOHN GOODBODY

EUROPEAN countries may put up a candidate to oppose Joao Havelange, the Brazilian president of Fifa, who is seeking his sixth term.

As the jockeying begins for one of the most important posts in international sport, Uefa said yesterday it was concerned about a reported conflict between Havelange and Joseph Blatter, the general secretary of the world governing body.

In a statement, it said: "Uefa will be holding talks during March with the presidents of the other continental confederations, and also with Dr Havelange, to clarify this situation, which has become unacceptable for football. The discussions will determine whether Uefa puts forward its own candidate for election to the highest administrative post in world football."

As Havelange, 78, has largely become a figurehead, Blatter, 58, has increasingly been taking on the burden of administration. Blatter has been urged to stand against Havelange in June, 20 years after the Brazilian took over the presidency from Sir Stanley Rous.

The pair had a meeting last week, after which Havelange said: "He has denied any conspiracy against me and has sworn loyalty."

"I have spoken to the presidents of the five confederations representing 190 countries and they have asked me, without exception, to stand for re-election."

Much of the recent criticism of Havelange has been concentrated on his relationship with his son-in-law, Ricardo Teixeira, the president of the Brazilian federation. Havelange has pushed for the inclusion of Teixeira on FIFA's executive committee and is even believed to be preparing his son-in-law as his possible successor.

Such a move would outrage the European countries, which would then be certain to put up a rival candidate, such as Bo Johansson, the Swedish president of Uefa.

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## Rees fires four-shot salvo for a place in semi-finals

BY GORDON ALLAN

STEPHEN Rees, of Swansea, advanced to the semi-finals of the Churchill Insurance world indoor singles championship when he beat Wynne Richards, born near Merthyr Tydfil but now living in London, 7-2, 7-5, 7-6, at the Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

Richards said that Rees played four "unbelievable shots" that, taken together, effectively won the match. The fourth was on the last end of the third set when, with Richards leading 6-3 and holding a set lie, Rees trailed the jack through for four shots.

It will go down as one of the shots of the championship. From the mat, about 35 yards away, Rees could see only half the jack but his judgment was flawless. On the previous end, Richards had scored three, nearly winning the set.

The other remarkable shots all converted bad positions into good ones for Rees, who said he was pleased with his form. Richards said that Rees had played better against him than when he beat Tony Alcock in the previous round.

Rees, a semi-finalist in 1992, plays Andrew Thomson today for a place in the final on Sunday, when £25,000 will be at stake. Richard Corrie, the holder, claimed his place in the semi-finals, when he beat Ian Taylor, of Australia, 7-6, 5-7, 5-7, 7-4, 7-4, in one of the best matches in the tournament. It lasted 3½ and the players were given a standing ovation at the end.

The pairs championship always tends to be overshadowed by the singles, but the competition is just as intense. In the normal pairs game, each player has four bowls, but at Preston, they have two each which puts greater premium on accuracy. If the lead regularly fails to fall near the jack, it takes an exceptional skip to win the match.

In the last of the quarter-finals, in which Cameron Curtis and Ian Schuback, of Australia, defeated Kevin Campbell, of South Africa, and Jeff Rabkin, South African-born but living in Israel.

Curtis peppered the jack throughout while Campbell was wayward. This made it comparatively simple for Schuback - who won the pairs with Jim Yates six years ago - and difficult though not impossible for Rabkin.

Curtis and Schuback play David Bryant and Alcock, six times winners in eight years, in the semi-final today. The other semi-final brings champions Gary Smith and Andrew Thomson up against Rees and John Price.

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## on talent running

LETTERS CORRESPONDENT

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## Kettering's mettle tested

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

KETTERING Town, who had been favourites to win the FA Trophy, were knocked out of the competition by Billingham Symphonias in a twice-delayed second round replay on Monday night.

Instead of playing at Macclesfield Town in the third round tomorrow, their GM Vauxhall Conference title credentials will come under the sternest examination from Kidderminster Harriers.

A crowd of 3,000 is expected at Rockingham Road, the fourth in succession of more than 2,000, but Graham Carr, the manager, said: "We might have expected more if Northampton weren't playing Hereford in a bottom versus second bottom third division match on the same day. If we'd gone through in the Trophy, the match would probably have been played in April and would have attracted a bumper gate."

Inconsistency and a lack of goalscoring power to match the soundness lent to the defence by the new England semi-professional caps, Graham Benstead, the goalkeeper, and Steve Holden, prevented Kettering from pressing ahead after hitting the top of the table at the end of November.

"Last season I arrived when we were third off the bottom and I had to work with the administrators," Carr said. "In July I had only two contract players. The problem is the expectation for success runs very high. People have been looking for Kettering to get into the Football League since Ron Atkinson was here in 1974."

Kidderminster, with Paul Davies scoring a hat-trick, won 4-1 at Merthyr on Tuesday to reclaim top position and prove they have not sustained any slackening in motivation since their FA Cup exploits.

Ian Stringfellow, signed from Mansfield Town last month, scored early for Kettering at Billingham before

Charlie Butler, Sean O'Brien with a penalty, and Andrew Banks won the game for the home side before a crowd of 842, a healthy increase for a club that averages barely 100.

Symphonia, so called after synthetic ammonia produced at the local ICI works which the team used to represent, have been a force in the Northern League for five seasons, finishing runners-up to Whitley Town last season.

Their manager, Stuart Coleby, was captain when the team won the league in 1988/89 and 1989/90 and was elevated upon the departure of Tony Lee to Gateshead when his playing career was ended at 31 by a knee injury.




# French expect to feel backlash from England

THE  
195  
RISTO  
STARS

*Stewards look great in them.  
So do Campbells, Armstrongs...*

*The series, in association with Aquascutum, continues today at Kelso.  
Nearest Aquascutum outlets are Frasers of Glasgow and Jenners of Edinburgh.*

  
**Aquascutum**  
OF LONDON















## SPORT

FRIDAY MARCH 4 1994

## Window to the world of heavyweight boxing



Smartly-dressed Michael Bennet steps ashore in London's Docklands yesterday to help publicise his meeting with Herbie Hide, of Norwich, who is challenging Bennet for his World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title at Millwall Football Club on March 19. Photograph: Hugh Routledge. Report: Srikanth Sen, page 38

CLEMENT FREUD 42

BRUSHING UP  
ON THE CHARMS  
OF CURLINGDeparture of  
Cooke must  
not deflect aim

After an eventful week, England  
must regain concentration, says  
Rob Andrew, their stand-off



England's five nations' championship campaign has yet to catch fire and now Geoff Cooke has confirmed he is departing. Yet despite these diversions, our task in Paris tomorrow is unaltered. As ever, what happens at the Parc des Princes will come down to the players.

I cannot deny that Geoff's surprise decision this week has brought sadness in the camp. He is hugely respected, a man who has done incredible things for English rugby. I agree with Will Carling — it will only be in the years to come that his enormous contribution to the English game will be recognised by outsiders. It is already to those of us who have seen what he has done to transform English rugby.

His decision to resign as England's manager after the match against Wales at Twickenham in two weeks' time has come completely out of the blue. But since he made it, he has been very low key about it. He knows — and we accept — that it cannot affect our preparations for tomorrow. He has told us there is no hidden agenda, that he has not been stabbed in the back or offered anything else in its place. He has just said he wants a bit of space and anyone who has seen what he has put into the job over seven years and 33 internationals, will understand perfectly such sentiments.

His departure will probably put things back in the melting pot but does not add to the pressure on us against France tomorrow: we have generated that ourselves because of our performances against Scotland and Ireland. We need must rediscover the form we showed when beating New Zealand. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with the team — we have just had a couple of off-days.

France in Paris is always desperately difficult because it is probably the one place where you can come badly unstuck if you are not concentrating and working

hard for the full 80 minutes. Psychologically, we will be much sharper. Paris has that effect on visiting players. Going there is as tough a physical task as any in world rugby, perhaps even more than playing New Zealand. The French have big, hard players. It is noisier there than anywhere else: there is more going on, and the whole place has a buzz about it. It is an electric atmosphere and it is sure to be a hard physical test.

I love playing there. The physical confrontations don't worry me, you have to stand up to that and try to give a bit back. Physically, England have been able to compete with them in recent years. But that side of it is always a test.

After five years I have been handed the kicking duties again. I know the pressure will be on but I kick every week for Wasps and it holds no fears. It's up to the senior players like myself, Will and Brian Moore to dig deep and show our character. I feel sorry for Jon Callard, who has experienced the ups and downs of international sport in the space of two matches. Two games ago he was the hero against Scotland. It's very difficult for him but all you can do is get your head down, get on with it and bounce back.

It would be easy to say we are out to win our last two games, to win the title, as a farewell to Geoff. But no-one in the squad is thinking about titles. Geoff knows, as we all do, that it is essential English rugby truly shows what it is capable of in Paris tomorrow. We are a side with real potential but we need to cut out the unforced errors if we are to prosper. I think this a stronger England team and we shall need players with a lot of heart to cope with what the French will throw at us.

□ Interview by Peter Bills

French prepare, page 40  
Gerald Davies, page 40

## England must turn to spinners

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN ST VINCENT

MESSAGES received from one-day cricket are frequently shallow and illusory, for this is a fickle game in which teams may produce contrasting results on successive days for no obvious reason. For England, however, the messages of their surrender here on Wednesday will be ignored at their peril. It was an inept display by England, in which the complacency of the batting was only the less culpable sin for coming after the bland and misdirected bowling. "It was embarrassing," Michael Atherton, the captain, admitted yesterday. "A totally unacceptable performance from international players."

Two games — to be played on successive days this weekend in Trinidad — remain in the one-day series, which stands at 2-1 to West Indies. Atherton is entitled to view them with trepidation. "If we play like we did here, we will be wiped off the park again," he said grimly.

He is right to be realistic, despite the capricious nature of the limited-overs game, which may yet salvage something for England. For the

unavoidable conclusion from Wednesday's 165-run defeat — England's heaviest in one-day internationals — is that, without Devon Malcolm, they have such a blunt seam attack that the West Indian batsmen have decided it can be treated with contempt.

Atherton is encouraged by the progress of Angus Fraser, more encouraged than I am on the latest evidence. Although his second spell on Wednesday showed more of

the old Fraser control, even a shade of movement, his action remains wooden and his delivery lacks the snap which made him formidable.

He is still important to England and will play in all the cricket which remains up to the second Test, but these days, the mournful stoop of the shoulders tells a more accurate tale.

Andy Caddick has not played in any of the one-day games so far, largely through

unfitness. Keith Fletcher, the manager, has confirmed that he is available this weekend and he must play in at least one of the matches. Promising though Caddick is, though, he has neither the knowledge nor the pace to be an effective leader of the attack in place of Malcolm.

This leaves Alan Igglesden, Steve Watkins and Chris Lewis. On Wednesday, they bowled 28 overs between them for a startling cost of 193 runs, the appearance of each one being greeted by the likes of Brian Lara in the joyous way a child might greet a magician at a birthday party. They commanded no respect.

Igglesden has tended to bowl rightly with the new ball and profligately with the old one. In the one-day game last Saturday, his final over cost 16 runs, three more than his previous six. On Wednesday his tenth over was savaged for 23. Watkins has not come to terms with the necessary adjustments in length between Cardiff and the Caribbean, for all his virtues of accuracy and habitual wicket-taking. Neither looks likely to run through the West Indies batting.

Lewis will be lucky to have another opportunity, though



How is your 1st XI doing?  
Check the scorecard after  
four matches on page 42

this has been said of him before. He has failed to impress once with the bat, while his bowling would win him no admirers in a county game. He, more than anyone, was guilty of what Fletcher, on Wednesday night, described as "bowling both sides of the wicket" — in other words, making it impossible for the captain to set a containing field.

This is not a happy picture to paint. What it means is that the loss of Malcolm, the one seam bowler who gave them an edge, demands a shift of emphasis. Malcolm will not

be playing in the Test series again at least until Barbados in April, by which time his fresh legs may be useful only in damage limitation.

The clamour for a replacement makes no sense, for England are not yet numerically stretched and there is, anyway, nobody at home equipped to do his job.

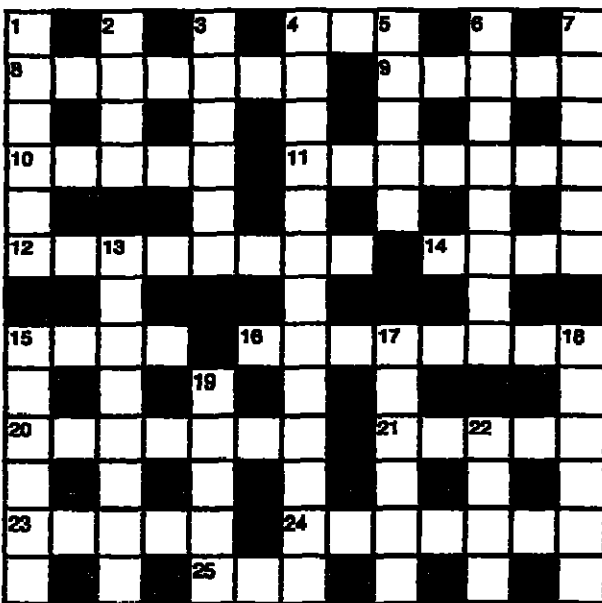
The only reasonable attempt at an answer lies with spin, and in the course of the next month we should be seeing much more of England's two specialist slow bowlers. Not for the first time on tour, Phil Tufnell was England's best bowler on Wednesday and there is plainly a need to get Ian Salisbury bowling with him as soon as possible.

West Indians deny their reputed failings against spin, but history constantly reminds us of them. The clinching factor is that they would far rather face England's array of mediocre medium-pace than be challenged by two men spinning the ball from leg to off. After Wednesday's shambles, England have to do all they can to disconcert a dangerously confident opponent.

Warne's nemesis, page 37



Atherton: realistic after record one-day defeat



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TIMES TWO  
CROSSWORD  
No 104

## ACROSS

- 4 Overweight (3)
- 8 Underwater missile (7)
- 9 Lift with effort (5)
- 10 Well-off Russian peasant (5)
- 11 Mattress fabric: clock noise (7)
- 12 Instinctive reactions (8)
- 14 Adhesive (4)
- 15 French resort: particular (4)
- 16 Captive (8)
- 20 Wardrobe contents (7)
- 21 Precious block (5)
- 23 Sharp (5)
- 24 W African country, capital Lagos (7)
- 25 Seizure (3)

## DOWN

- 1 Coal-shoveller; author of *Dracula* (6)
- 2 Eurasian mountain range (4)
- 3 Disrupt speaker (6)
- 4 Temporarily (3,3,7)
- 5 In cahoots; broad (5)
- 6 Tune played on bells (8)
- 7 Thin, inadequate (6)
- 13 Man of all work (8)
- 15 Drink of the gods, and of bees (6)
- 17 Ungenerous (6)
- 18 Ceremonial (6)
- 19 Tribal leader (5)
- 22 Apparel (4)

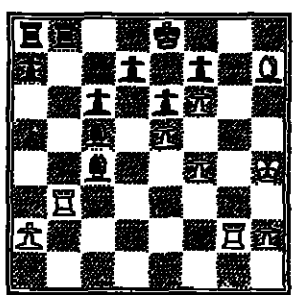
## SOLUTION TO NO 103

ACROSS: 1 Hearth 5 Nelson 8 Yarn 9 Abdicant 10 Rightful 12 Oxen 13 Beggar 15 Dots 17 Blur 19 Test case 21 Casanova 23 Pork 24 Depend 25 Deduct

DOWN: 2 Examine 3 Ranch 4 Head-first 5 Nod 6 Lock-out 7 Outré 11 Lady's maid 14 Germane 16 Gastric 18 Lease 20 Cupid 22 Odd

WINNING MOVE  
By Raymond Keene

In honour of the category 18 Linares tournament, currently in progress in Spain, this week we are concentrating on positions from previous events at Linares. This position is a variation from the game Kasparov - Illescas, Linares 1992. What did the world champion, White to play, have in mind here?



Solution, page 42

WORD-WATCHING  
By Philip Howard

## PRICKLOUSE

- a. Gorse
- b. A tailor
- c. A starched petticoat

## QUAGGA

- a. A quacksand
- b. A Kilguy council
- c. A failed zebra

## LOGOGRIPH

- a. A pedant
- b. A mythical mongrel
- c. An anagram puzzle

## MOELLON

- a. The water melon
- b. A Dutch water mill
- c. Builder's rubble

Answers on page 42

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the Sun.

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Venus.

A button  
from Mercury.

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